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# BOYLSTON CENTENNIAL

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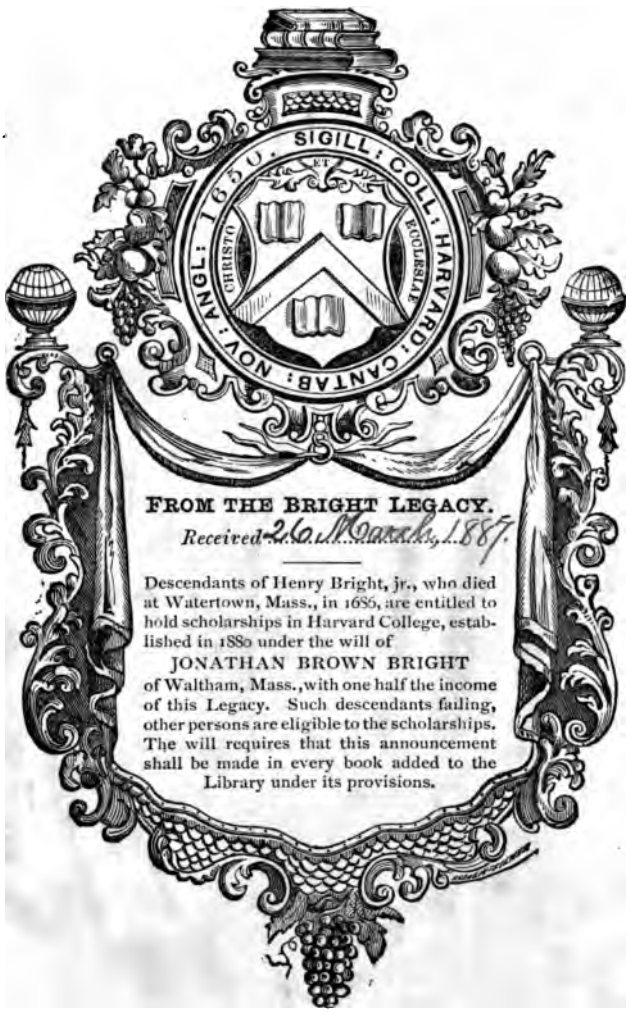


**FROM THE BRIGHT LEGACY.**

*Received* 26 March, 1887.

Descendants of Henry Bright, jr., who died at Watertown, Mass., in 1686, are entitled to hold scholarships in Harvard College, established in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Mass., with one half the income of this Legacy. Such descendants failing, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.

1786. 1886.

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

# INCORPORATION

OF THE

# TOWN OF BOYLSTON

## MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 18, 1886.

WORCESTER, MASS.:
PRESS OF SANFORD & DAVIS.
1887.

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MAR 26 1887
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Bright Fund

Boylston, from 1742 to 1786 known as the North Parish of Shrewsbury, was incorporated as a town by the Legislature of Massachusetts March 1, 1786, and was named in honor of Ward Nicholas Boylston, a prominent citizen of Boston.

# BOYLSTON CENTENNIAL.

The citizens of Boylston, desirous of commemorating in some fitting manner the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, took action to that effect at the March meeting of 1886, when it was voted that the occasion should be properly observed, and one hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated towards defraying the expense. At a special meeting, held in April, the following committees were appointed to arrange for and carry out the details of the celebration :

COMMITTEES.

*General Committee*—Elmer Shaw, John G. Warner, Levi L. Flagg, Lyman P. Kendall, Wm. A. Andrews, Nathaniel L. Kendall, Albert W. Andrews.

*Committee on Exercises*—George L. Wright, H. H. Brigham, Rev. I. Ainsworth.

*Committee on Invitations*—Nathaniel L. Kendall, Joseph M. Wright, Montraville Flagg.

*Committee on Music*—Penniman M. Brigham, Mrs. H. M. Andrews, Mrs. John A. Ware.

*Committee on Dinner*—Lyman S. Walker, Charles W. Moore, M. Flagg, Jr.

*Committee on Printing*—George L. Wright, Thomas L. Sheldon, George R. Hastings.

*Committee on Relics*—N. L. Kendall, Joseph M. Wright, Henry V. Woods.

*Committee on Decorations*—James H. Woods, John M. Warner, John Tucker, with several ladies to assist.

*Chairman of Committee on Tents*—L. P. Kendall.

*Committee on Programme*—L. P. Kendall, Elmer Shaw, A. W. Andrews, G. L. Wright, P. M. Brigham.

*Committee of Soldiers to Accept Tablet*—Dea. L. S. Walker, William A. Andrews, John G. Warner, Joseph M. Wright, Henry White.

Wednesday, the 18th day of August, was the day fixed on for the celebration, and the Committee of Arrangements reported the following as the list of officers of the day:

*President*—Hon. Phinehas Ball.

*Vice Presidents*—Horace Kendall, Ezra Ball, H. H. Brigham, A. Flagg, A. E. Waterman, Sylvanus Reed, L. L. Flagg, Newell Parker, M. Flagg, Henry Hastings, Sanford M. Kendall, Robert Andrews, Silas Howe, L. W. Brewer, Leonard Brewer, J. B. Cutler, Silas Gleason, N. L. Daggett, J. D. Flagg, James Bigelow, W. H. Perry, J. M. Wright, H. V. Woods, Thomas Knowlton, N. L. Kendall, James Locke, Abel Brigham.

*Chief Marshal*—Hon. Charles B. Pratt.

*Aides to the Chief Marshal*—John W. Howe, J. N. Ball, J. W. Flagg, George Ball, Alfred G. Larkin.

The following invitation and programme were issued:

1786 — 1886

# Centennial Celebration

of the

# Town of Boylston.

*The Committee on Invitations cordially invite all natives and former residents, and descendants of former Boylston families, to be present at the Centennial Celebration of the incorporation of the town*

## On Wednesday, August 18, 1886.

HENRY M. SMITH, Esq., of Worcester, (a son-in-law of the late Rev. Wm. H. Sanford for many years minister of the Town,) will deliver the address, and WILLIAM N. DAVENPORT, Esq., of Marlborough, (a native of the Town,) will read the Poem, Hon. PHINEHAS BALL, ex-mayor of Worcester, (a native of the Town,) will act as President of the Day, and Hon. CHARLES B. PRATT, also an ex-mayor of Worcester, (a former resident of the Town,) will be Chief Marshal.

It is earnestly hoped as many as possible will be present and assist in making the occasion a grand re-union of present and past citizens of the Town.

In behalf of the Town,

NATHANIEL L. KENDALL,
JOSEPH M. WRIGHT,
MONTRAVILLE FLAGG,
Committee on Invitations.

1742
*Incorporation of Shrewsbury North Parish.*

1786
*Incorporation of the Town of Boylston.*

# Centennial Celebration

*OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE*

# Town of Boylston

## Wednesday, August 18, 1886

---

*President of the Day,*
HON. PHINEHAS BALL.

*Orator of the Day,*
HENRY M. SMITH, ESQ

*Chief Marshal,*
HON. CHARLES B. PRATT.

AIDES,

John W. Howe, J. Nelson Ball,
Alfred G. Larkin. J. Walter Flagg,
Geo. W. Ball.

TOAST-MASTER, GEORGE L. WRIGHT.

# Programme

Ringing of Bells and Firing of Salutes at Sunrise.

8 to 8.30 A. M. Field Sports on the Common, under charge of a committee consisting of CHARLES BRAY, C. W. MOORE, M. FLAGG JR. CHAS. E. CUTLER, and GEO. A. HASTINGS.

8.30 to 9 o'clock. Selections of Music by the WORCESTER BRASS BAND, from the Band Stand on the Common, during which time a PROCESSION consisting of the Town Officers, Schools, Citizens and organizations under the escort of the Worcester Brass Band, and Battery "B," M. V. M., under command of Capt. Wellington, will form and march around the Commons to the Town Hall, where a MEMORIAL TABLET to the memory of BOYLSTON SOLDIERS who fell in the Mexican and Civil Wars, will be presented by GEORGE A. COTTING, ESQ., of Hudson, a former resident of the town, accompanied with appropriate services.

10 o'clock. **EXERCISES IN THE SPEAKERS' TENT.**

## Order of Services.

MUSIC BY THE BAND.

INVOCATION AND PRAYER, . . REV. ISRAEL AINSWORTH.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES, . REV. HENRY S. KIMBALL.

READING OF THE ACT OF INCORPORATION,
HENRY H. BRIGHAM, *Town Clerk.*

PSALM (78.) (TUNE CORONATION.) *Congregation.*

I.

Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old;
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our Fathers told.

II.

He bids us make His glories known,
His works of pow'r and grace;
And we'll convey his wonders down
Through every rising race.

III.

Our lips shall tell them to our sons,
And they again to theirs;
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.

IV.

Thus shall they learn in God alone
Their hope securely stands;
That they may ne'er forget His works,
But practice His commands.

CENTENNIAL ADDRESS BY HENRY M. SMITH, ESQ., OF WORCESTER.

(A son-in-law of Rev. WM. H. SANFORD, for many years minister of the Town.)

POEM BY WILLIAM N. DAVENPORT, ESQ., OF MARLBORO,

(A native of the Town.)

HYMN (1300). (TUNE, ITALIAN HYMN.) *Congregation.*

I.

Our land with mercies crowned,
This wide enchanting land,
O God! is thine;
Our fathers knew thy name;
The trophies of their fame,—
Our heritage,—proclaim
A Power divine.

II.

Far in the purple West,
Thy hand with beauty dressed
These fertile plains.
These rivers dark and deep,
These torrents down the steep,
These mighty woods that sweep
From mountain chains.

III.

Dear native land! rejoice;
Raise thou thy virgin voice
To God on high;
From all thy hills and bays,
From all thy homes and ways,
Symphonies and praise
Ascend the sky.

IV.

And Thou Almighty One.
At whose eternal throne
She bows the knee!
In all coming time
Bless Thou this favored clime,
And may her deeds sublime
Be hymns to Thee.

BENEDICTION.

At 12 o'clock M. an Exhibition Drill and Firing of Salutes will take place by Battery "B." M. V. M. of Worcester, following which

**Dinner will be Served in a Tent on the Common,**

by J. L. NUGENT, Caterer of Clinton. After which Exercises consisting of Music, Toasts and Speeches, from present and former residents and others, will take place in the Speakers' tent. The exercises of the day concluding with a Band Concert on the Common.

In the Town House there will be a display of Antique articles and interesting Relics connected with the history of the Town.

☞A book will be provided at the Town Hall in which all natives, former residents and descendants of former residents, are requested to register their names and addresses.

## FIELD SPORTS AND GAMES.

The Field Sports will take place in the forenoon and afternoon during Exercises in the Tent, consisting of

Wheelbarrow Race. Potato Race, Sack Race, Three-Legged Race, Doughnut Race, Foot Race, Egg Race, Hurdle Race, Greased Pole, Tug-of-War.

The eight first mentioned races will be open to citizens of Boylston and invited guests only. The Greased Pole and Tug-of-War will be open to the public. Prizes will be offered as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Race the 1st Prize will be | $1.00 | Tug-of-War, . . . | $5.00 |
| Second Prize will be . . . . | .50 | Greased Pole, . . . | 2.00 |

All races to have at least three entries. Entries to be made with Charles Bray, Chairman of the Committee on Sports, on or before the Centennial Day. A Game of Base Ball will be played between Sawyer's Mills and Shrewsbury Nines during the day.

# THE DAY'S CELEBRATION.

Wednesday, the 18th of August opened clear and beautiful, while cool breezes tempered the air, making the day perfect. The town had put on a holiday dress. The dawn was saluted with ringing of bells and firing of cannon, the youth of the town generally participating in the latter duty. The Worcester Brass Band arrived early on the grounds, and from the band stand gave a concert while the procession formed in front of the town house, in the following order:

## THE PROCESSION.

Worcester Brass Band, L. D. Waters leader, 23 pieces.
Chief Marshal Hon. Charles B. Pratt, of Worcester.
Aides—John W. Howe, J. Nelson Ball, Alfred G. Larkin, J. Walter Flagg, George W. Ball.
Battery B., of Worcester, Capt. Fred W. Wellington; 1st Lieut. John E. Merrill; 1st Sergeant Joseph Bruso, Jr.;
Sergeants R. F. Lathe, H. W. Haynes;
Guidon, Corp. H. W. Searles,
35 men.
The George D. Wells Post, No 28, William G. Haskin, Officer of the day in command, 30 men.
The Boylston Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, five wagons.
Flora's car of the Grange represented a floral bower, under

which sat half a dozen ladies surrounded by flowers and potted plants; the sides of the wagon were inscribed:

To me belong the forest, the garden and the garlands of flowers;

and at the end was

Let flowers be unto you an emblem of hope.

Next came a wagon with twelve young ladies, dressed in white; next Pomona's car; a wagon load of fruits; it was covered with apples and grapes, and lettered on the sides:

The lucious products of the orchard and fruit garden are mine.

At the rear end of the wagon was

Let fruits be to you an emblem of faith.

Seated on the wagon were three ladies. Next came Ceres' car, a wagon load of grain, the ladies being decorated with grain. It was marked on the sides:

My tribute is the golden grain.

and at the end was:

Let corn ever be unto you an emblem of charity.

Behind this were two barges with members of the Grange.

---

## THE TABLET PRESENTATION.

The march was about the common and up to the band stand, where the services of presentation of the Memorial Tablet to the soldiers who fell in the Mexican and civil wars took place. This Tablet is the gift of George A. Cotting, Esq., of Hudson, a former resident of Boylston. It is of white marble with a gilt band, and bears the following inscription in gilt letters:

THIS TABLET,

Erected on the One Hundredth Anniversary of Boylston by George A. Cotting, is in commemoration of the valor of its citizens, who died in the great civil war of 1861 to preserve the unity of our country.

John R. Roberts, Private Co. K, 2d Reg. Mass. Vol. Killed at Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va., Aug 9, 1862. Æ 25 yrs. He was the first soldier enlisted from Boylston.

Elliot J. Flagg, Private Co. I, 4th Reg. N. Y. Vols. Killed at Battle of Antietam, Md,, Sept. 17th, 1862. Æ 23 years.

James H. Wilson, Private Co. L, 21st Reg. Mass. Vols. Died of wounds at Fredericksburg, Va,, Dec. 15th, 1862. Æ 28 years.

Albert Hastings. Private Co. E, 21st Reg. Mass. Vols. Died at Camp Nelson, Ky., April 12th, 1864. Æ 24 years.

John W. Partridge, Private Co. D, 25th Reg. Mass. Vols. Died at Andersonville, Ga., May, 2864. Æ 29 years.

George W. Brewer, Corp. Co. D, 25th Reg. Mass. Vols. Killed at Cold Harbor, on June 3d, 1864. Æ 23 years.

Watson Wilson, Private Co. I, 36th Reg. Mass. Vols. Died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 28th, 1864. Æ 22 years.

John M. Forbes, Sergt. Co. C, 34th Reg. Mass. Vols. Died at Salisbury, N. C., Sept. 27th, 1864. Æ 25 years.

Ferdinand Andrews, Corporal Co. D, 25th Reg. Mass. Vol. Died at Boylston, Mass , Nov. 26th, 1864. Æ 25 years.

George C. Flagg, Private Co. F., Mass. Vols. in Mexican war, at U. S. Hospital Barracks, New Orleans, July 26th, 1848. Æ 24 years.

AUGUST 18, 1886.

The exercises were simple but of great interest. Mr. Cotting presented the Tablet in a brief address as follows:

*Mr. President, Ex-Soldiers, and Citizens of Boylston:*—It is a great pleasure to me to be with you on this centennial celebration of the incorporation of the town of Boylston, here to make my contribution to the memory of the valor of those brave and patriotic sons who volunteered their services and laid down their lives in defense of the Union of our country. Their deeds of valor and patriotism should ever be brought before the young men of this great Republic so that when our country is in jeopardy by foes within, or without, there will be those to imitate those fallen and these living comrades who are before us.

Although this is a small and sparsely inhabited town, it has always given its full quota of defenders of the country in its time of need, from the time of its incorporation to the end of the late civil war.

When it was a part of Shrewsbury and Lancaster this territory gave more than its proportion in its defence against the Indians and support of the Revolution; many lost their lives in action, more died by hardship and sickness, whose names are carefully preserved in the history of those towns. All honor to their names.

In the war of 1812 this town filled its quota of men required, and every man safely returned to his home.

We have one of those 1812 soldiers with us to-day in yonder

carriage, who is nearly as old as this town, and is able to be with us to celebrate and grace this occasion with these boys in blue, who now stand before you.

In the Mexican war one young man, an only son of Francis Flagg, left his home with his father's consent, went to Boston and enlisted in our only Massachusetts Regiment. George G. Flagg, private, Company F, Massachusettt Regiment, died at United States Hospital Barracks, New Orleans, La., July 26, 1848, aged 24 years. He was a dutiful son, a brave and gallant soldier, was in several hard fought actions with the Mexicans and received the commendation of his commander.

John R. Roberts, a young man who came to this town to work on our farms, was the first man to put his name on paper for the defense of the Union of this Government, and was the first Boylston man to fall by a rebel bullet at the fiercely contested battle of Cedar Mountain, where Company K, Second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, so bravely fought August 9th, 1862. He was 25 years old.

Elliott J. Flagg, private, Company I, Fourth Regiment New York Volunteers, killed at the battle of Antietam, Md., September 17th, 1862, aged 23 years. I knew him as a bright boy, while a member of the Center School, and living on yonder hill. He was a fine young man.

James H. Wilson, private, Company E, Twenty-first Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, died of wounds received in that hard disastrous battle at Fredericksburg, Va., December 15th, 1862, aged 28 years. He has a brother with us to-day, an ex-soldier.

Albert S. Hastings, private, Company E, Twenty-first Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, died in Camp Nelson, Kentucky, April 12th, 1864. He was born in that part of Boylston known as East Woods. When quite young his parents moved to the farm which Mr. Augustus Flagg now owns and resides on. He attended the Six Nations District School, became a Land Surveyor and Civil Engineer, and when not occupied in his profession, worked with his father on the farm. Being full of patriotism he went to the defense of his country, served out his term of enlistment, and then re-enlisted, his fate being not to die on the field

of battle, but in camp from sickness. He was a brave and good boy.

George W. Brewer, corporal, Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, killed at the battle of Cold Harbor, Va, June 3d. 1864, aged 23. He knew no fear, was a member of the South District School, enlisted December 18, 1863. His aged father is with us to-day.

John W. Partridge, private, Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, served last in the Signal service. Taken prisoner and confined in that fatal prison, to so many brave sons of the North, he died from neglect and cruel starvation at Andersonville, Ga., some time in the month of May, 1864. He was the senior of his fallen comrades, an only son, well educated, a school-mate with young Brewer, and respected by his townsmen. His mother and youngest sister are with us to-day.

Watson Wilson, private Company I, Thirty-sixth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 28, 1864, aged 22 years. He was the youngest of the fallen from this town.

John M. Forbes, sergeant, Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, died at Salsbury, N. C., January 13, 1865, aged 26 years. He was born and educated in the East School District, was a brave soldier, was taken prisoner and inhumanly used in prison. His comrades can testify to his gallantry and to the nobility of his character. His word was as good as his bond. His mother and only sister are with us to-day.

Ferdinand Andrews, corporal, Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, who came home with his company at the expiration of three years enlistment, but too sick and feeble to receive a discharge with his comrades, died in the service of his country November 26, 1864, aged 26. His honored dust rests in yonder cemetery, where you, ex-soldiers and citizens of Boylston, can decorate his grave with flowers and drop a tear in remembrance of the aforesaid comrades who rest in unmarked and unknown graves, and whose names are cut upon this tablet.

Gentlemen, Selectmen, I now present this Memorial Tablet,

through you to the town of Boylston, placed in your Town Hall, you to cherish it as a tribute of honor to those valiant men who fell in defense of the unity of our government.

At the close of Mr. Cotting's remarks the band played the Soldiers Funeral Hymn, and prayer was offered by Rev. George S. Ball, of Upton. The tablet was then accepted by Mr. Augustus Flagg, in behalf of the town, who said:

*Mr. Cotting:* In behalf of the town of Boylston we accept the Tablet presented by you, and we thank you heartily for this munificent gift. Indeed, if it is possible to express our feelings in stronger language, we are grateful, all the more so because it has been given by one who was formerly one of our highly respected citizens, and who has always taken a deep interest in the welfare and well-being of our town; all the more so because your name is inscribed with those of our fallen heroes. The inscriptions engraved upon this beautiful tablet are highly suggestive,—They will tell to future generations more than any historian has ever written; it tells more than any historian can ever write It tells of self-forgetting, of unbounded consecration and supreme devotion to our beloved country. It speaks of sacrifices made by fathers and mothers, by wives and children. It tells of the sacrifices of those who left their homes never to return. It tells of sufferings in camp and on the march, on the battle-field and in prison. Again, sir, we thank you for your benevolence, and patriotism, and be assured if any of us survive you when we are gathered on Memorial Day to scatter flowers over the graves of our fallen comrades your grave will not be forgotten.

Mr. Lyman S. Walker spoke for the Grand Army:

*Mr. Chairman, Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—A pleasant task devolves upon me to-day, and I would that I had language to portray my feelings upon this occasion.

In behalf of the Comrades of Boylston, I am called upon to accept the beautiful Tablet, with the names of all the deceased Soldiers inscribed thereon, presented to the Town by a former

citizen. A noble deed, and one which will endear him to every living comrade. An act which will cause his name to be loved and cherished by many yet unborn, years after his remains lie mouldering in the dust. The mother of the boy who died in the great cause, and whose name is inscribed upon the Tablet, will look upon it, and receive comfort from it.

The widow whose husband died that the nation might live, may point her fatherless boy to his father's name that he may derive fresh supplies of patriotic inspiration from it.

Old age and lisping childhood may visit this Memorial, and be inspired by its solemn teachings; and there, in the eternal marble shall those names remain, growing brighter and brighter as the years recede.

Of all the names mentioned on this Tablet, I was acquainted with only one, that one was John Forbes; he belonged to the same Regiment and Company, and I knew him well; I knew him as a true and brave man; a man who was strictly temperate in his habits, ever faithful in his duty, and a great lover of home. I can remember how his eyes would sparkle when a message came from home, and also how sad he would look when he received none. On a beautiful day in Oct. 1864, when nature shone in all its beauty through the Shenandoah Valley, we were encamped near Cedar Creek. Some were writing letters home, others reading, and some passing away the time with a game of whist, and, as we supposed, all was going on smoothly, when a shell exploded in our midst, and all was changed, as in the twinkling of an eye. We hurried into line, and went forth to fight, and do our duty.

Our Regiment was badly cut up, and many fell to rise no more. John Forbes was taken prisoner, and I never saw him again. I was told by another comrade that he was carried to the hospital, and a few days later he there looked upon his lifeless corpse in a nude state; he now lies in an unknown grave. This is but one case of the many thousands who died that the country might live.

Comrades, we are called upon to-day to guard and protect this Tablet. Let no man dare bring reproach upon these names inscribed thereon.

They had their vices, also their virtues; let him that is perfect cast the first stone. Now to you Mr. Chairman, and to you,

the donor of this beautiful Tablet, I would say in behalf of the comrades, we will guard it well, we will guard it while we live, and will endeavor to teach our posterity, as they look upon it from time to time, to be true to their country and the old flag; and when the great nation for which they died shall finally have achieved its full mission, and there shall be no spot upon the face of the globe where the equality of man is not recognized, the names of these men inscribed upon the brightest rolls of this world's history, shall challenge the admiration of all the ages. That this may be so, we devotedly pray; that it SHALL be so, we pledge ourselves.

## THE LITERARY EXERCISES.

The procession then reformed and marched to the tent, where the literary exercises took place. Meanwhile people had assembled in crowds, and the common and the tents presented a lively appearance everywhere; old residents were meeting and welcoming each other.

Among the older persons present were Abel Farwell, 95, and Ezra Ball, 91, both 1812 veterans, and Luther Brigham, 86, all residents of the town; Mrs. W. H. Sanford, of Worcester, widow of a former pastor, and Mrs. Andrew Bigelow, widow of an old pastor, now of Southborough, and a daughter of Hon. Marshall P. Wilder.

On a table in the tent was a collection of photographs of the Bush family, with an ideal view of the old family residence; Col. Jotham Bush, his wife, son and brothers, and a number of their descendants were included in the frame, which proved of the greatest interest to many old residents. Dr. William A. Holcombe of New York, a grandson of Col. Bush, arranged the group.

Hon. Phinehas Ball presided in the tent. The exercises took place in the following order:

Music by the Band.
Invocation and Prayer by the Rev. Israel Ainsworth.
Reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. Henry S. Kimball.
Reading of the Act of Incorporation by
Henry H. Brigham, Esq., Town Clerk.
Singing of the LXXVIII Psalm by the audience.

The President in introducing the Orator of the Day said:

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Citizens of Boylston, Fellow Kindred and Invited Guests:*—We assemble to-day in obedience to one of the deepest instincts of the human heart—that of the love of home—in response to the tender, the enduring and sacred memory of one's birthplace. For it matters not whether we first saw light and were taught to lisp our mother tongue amid the scenery and bloom of a second edition of the Garden of Eden, or in the humble cottage nestling amid the rocks and woods untouched by the hand of man; the warm impulses of our hearts cherish with lasting emotion the vivid recollection of those early scenes, and those of our nearest kindred, who shared and enjoyed and bore with us our early lot. To cease from our ordinary cares and labors, and to bring back the memories of these early scenes; to greet again the friends and associates of our youth among the living, or to make up the soul's mementoes of the larger number of early companions and kin among the dead; to renew old friendships, to be introduced to the children and grand-children of the fathers and mothers whom we knew. To these ends let us dedicate and consecrate these few hours.

On this Centennial of the Town let us not stop to commune with ourselves alone. Let us here remember, with ever increasing gratitude and reverent honor, those noble ancestors of ours, whose wise forethought, whose labors amid privation and hardship, built the corporate existence of this town. To them we owe a debt which can only be repaid by gratitude for what they have done for us, by cherishing their memories and by living virtuous and honorable lives.

To the celebration of the Centennial of the Town of Boylston its citizens bid us a cordial, hearty and open-handed welcome, one and all. Let us enter into the festivities of the occasion with earnestness and sincerity, thanking our kind friends of the town for the opportunity thus afforded us to gain an acquaintance with its present people and the descendants of the founders of the town.

Of the history of the town it is not mine to speak; that task has been wisely allotted to one of the sons of Boylston, made such by that mysterious human bond analogous to that which the old chemists called "elective affinity;" in other words, he married one of the daughters of the town, and thereby became one of its sons. I now have the pleasure and honor of introducing to you Henry M. Smith, Esq., of Worcester, as orator of the day.

# HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

TEN years ago, at Philadelphia, with a pomp and circumstance befitting a great occasion, our nation celebrated its one hundredth birthday. With wide-spread preparation and costly expenditure in assembling the material tokens of our century of progress, we passed in review before the enlightened peoples of the earth. Since then, there have been numerous occasions, similar in meaning, varying in prominence, but with a common interest. It has been a decade consecrated to the memories of our national past.

Two years ago, the neighboring city of Worcester turned the pages of her history of two hundred years. Since then Springfield, and still later Albany, have reviewed their still longer periods.

The longest lapse of time that holds the records of an American community, at first glance, seems insignificant, measured on the Old World's calendars. This year Lucerne celebrates the five hundredth anniversary of the battle of Sempach, which secured Swiss independence. In England, within the present month, the town of Ripon observes its one thousandth birthday; her chronicles go back to Royal Alfred and the Danish invasion.

But the Muse of History has no sneer for our American past, though its whole story is contained in these few generations of men. Within very recent years, history has reformed her methods and has begun to tell the story of the common people,—the massed experiences of average communities, in distinction

from the embroidered chronicles of kings and great commanders. Our American anniversary celebrations, of the past ten years, have stirred deeply the fountains of our local annals.

The reader and the student of this, and coming time, can understand the order of facts and the meaning of our early days, far better than preceding generations could have done, though nearer to the events themselves. Never has history, and that philosophy of history, found richer treasures than have been supplied by our modern town historians.

We come together to-day, on this beautiful common, to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of this representative Massachusetts hill town. It has a character, possessed from its earliest past, which must be understood if we would understand this old Commonwealth, and the sources of the influence Massachusetts has had upon other commonwealths. For us here to-day two dates stand opposed—1786–1886.

But, as in our national celebration, ten years ago, the event we commemorate is only in a limited sense initial. The nation was shaped in the colonial period, and tested and tempered in the red heat of the Revolution, before it began to live a separate existence. It had passed through a century and a half of experience before 1776; an experience never again to be repeated by any of earth's people, the founding of a nation in the wilderness.

The story of every town and hamlet that shared this early period of the nation is a page of national history.

The pleasant town of Boylston, with its story of one hundred years, the first century of its existence, had a history before 1786, a history that took in the life and labors of two preceding generations of her citizens. From this earlier date of 1786, as our mount of vision, let us take the backward look.

Boylston derives her greatest antiquity from motherly Lancaster, from which came one-quarter of her territory, but she is chiefly the daughter of Shrewsbury, and grand-daughter of Marlborough, who sending hither her sons one hundred and sixty years ago, is to-day represented here by a son of Boylston birth she has herself delighted to honor, the bearer of grand-motherly congratulations.

Moreover, Boylston is the mother of West Boylston. Thus the labors of local annalists in four contributing towns, may be searched for the story of Boylston. It has been written into them all. A word as to the place of the hill towns in the order of her early settlements. The home government, so lavish in bestowing wilderness grants as to be willing to slice a continent from sea to sea, set a very liberal example for those who, under the first colonial charters, parted the wilderness with unstinted hands.

They give to individuals to reward service, or increase emolument; or demonstrate patronage to new settlements, or to church organizations. There were considerations still plainly to be discussed, why the first settlers sought far and wide for the meadow lands; the broad intervale that lay like rare oases in the elsewhere wilderness of woods and broken hills. These pleasing meads were ready to be occupied with little labor. They were richest in suggesting to the English settlers. They gave ready fodder for English stock. There were not many of these spots, they were wide apart.

Lancaster became the oldest town in this county for such a reason. They of Brookfield planted homes in a perilous region, thirty miles away from their nearest and only neighbors in Lancaster, Springfield and Hadley, because they were in love with the "six miles square near Quaboag pond."

The heart of the future commonwealth was a region of rugged hills, deep veined by frequent streams whose currents clogged by the beaver and his fellows, turned the narrow valleys into dismal bogs. What is now Worcester county, seems to have come first into Massachusetts annals in 1633, when Governor Winthrop saw from an eminence in Watertown "a very high hill due West about forty miles off," and so old Wachusett got his first mention as sentinel among inland hills.

And when nearly one hundred years later there was the movement, which became successful in 1731, to form Worcester county, with thirteen towns, his Majesty's representatives met the proposition with discouragement, Governor Belcher demurring, and Thomas Hutchinson, afterwards Governor, but then a member of the General Court, strenuously opposing the project for the

new county, declaring "the unpracticability of its ever making any progress for this hill country could never attract settlers."

Marlborough, settled in 1660, had her share in the red letter days of Indian troubles. At the end of King Philip's affair in 1676, she was still a frontier settlement with no town west this side of the Connecticut river, Lancaster, Brookfield and Springfield having been wiped out. Marlborough herself had suffered sorely, for she was visited and burned in 1676, but her settlers began to come back the next year, and in 1680 had rebuilt their meeting-house, thatching it with straw. In 1688 they erected another in its place that stood until 1809, a worthy type of that permanence in doctrine which gave them in 1679 a church covenant that was used by the church until 1837. That was the brave, staunch old grand-mother of Boylston.

By 1706 Marlborough had so well strengthened itself that John Brigham and thirty others went out to establish Shrewsbury, and the borough towns began to be set off from her territory, Westborough leading the list. Marlborough had voted concerning one of these off-shoots, as a rule for all, that if these outgoing settlers "see fit to build another meeting-house, and are able to do so, and maintain a minister then the division to be made."

Shrewsbury was liberally endowed, by the General Court, with a territory fifteen miles long, extending from Lancaster at the north, to Sutton on the south, and from three to four miles wide, lying between what was then Marlborough and Worcester. The committee appointed to lay out and apportion the tract finished their labors in 1718.

But the general reasons, already referred to, as discriminating against the hill towns, seemed for a time to weigh very strongly against the Shrewsbury township. Early chroniclers did not hesitate to declare that it was "not a good parcel of land." It was rough and uneven. Its good lands had been so frequently and relentlessly burned over by the Indians, and interlopers from other towns, that vast tracts of forest stood blackened and ruined, in many places the soil itself being burned down to hard-pan.

One early writer declared that little use was ever likely to

be made of it but "to pass over it to a better place." Write as the poets may of "the forest primeval," the condition of savagery cannot even care for its own forests. The woods of this region are far more dense and luxuriant to-day than they were when the red man kept them dwarfed and scrubby with forest fires.

But the territory that became Boylston, held grants of land older and of different derivation from the Shrewsbury grant, or the portion set off from Lancaster. In 1655 the church in Malden received from the General Court a grant of nine hundred acres. The name is perpetuated in the Malden Hill, a prominent feature in your western landscape. Ward, in his History of Shrewsbury, calls this a "pretended grant," but it is referred to in the Malden town records, in 1736, as the "Town Farm in Worcester or Shrewsbury," and action was taken to protect the rights of the town thereon, it having been invaded by squatters.

In 1659, another grant, still more closely a Boylston possession, was the six hundred and fifty acres given to Richard Davenport, ancestor of a long and well-known Boylston family, from one of whose descendants you are to hear to-day. Davenport was a man of note, a commander at Castle Island, where he was killed by lightning in 1665.

Of this Davenport tract there remains the interesting memento and monument in the tree still standing in the road, below the Clarendon Mills toward Clinton, which was made the starting point by the surveyors of the tract two hundred and twenty-seven years ago, and is referred to as "a great white oak." It is twenty feet seven inches in circumference at the ground, and one of the few historic trees of this region. Its trunk is said to be well filled with iron spikes hammered stoutly home by Ezra Beaman's own hand, to induce all future woodmen to "spare that tree."

In the grant to Shrewsbury the provision appears, "that they have at least forty families settled, with an orthodox minister within the space of three years, for whom allotment of land was to be made, and another for the use of the school." Towns thus founded were sure to be divided, and again divided, whenever distance measured on blazed tracks, or cart paths through

the woods, made church going a burden, too hard for endurance, by any neighborhood whose numbers were sufficient to set up a church of its own.

The founding of Shrewsbury went forward in the spirit of those days, the central point and mainspring, a meeting house, and a godly minister. Very little can be told of the early history of what is now Boylston. The farm, later held by Rev. Ward Cotton, was occupied a number of years before any other settlement in the vicinity of the meeting house, and the common.

Several settlers by the name of Keyes came to a large tract of land in what is now the south part of Boylston, as early as 1720.

Among the settlers immediately, or within the first few years were those who bore the names of Brigham, Sawyer, Bennet, Starr, Bigelow, Hastings, Taylor, Ball, Newton, Keyes, Temple, Flagg, Howe, Bush, Davenport, Wheeler, Andrews ; and these names, or nearly all of them have always had a familiar Boylston sound. As the the first settlers in the northwest part of this town, William and Nathaniel Davenport, descendants of the first owner came, in 1736, to the Davenport tract, portions of which were occupied by the eighth generation of the family.

The first settlers in the territory that became Boylston, divided their attendance at Lord's Day services between Shrewsbury and Lancaster, finding their way through forest bridle paths and fording the streams as they came to them, realizing what their neighbors of Bolton, about the same time, in their petition to the General Court, called the "making the Sabbath, which should be a day of rest, a day of the hardest labor."

There are those who affect to sneer at the pious considerations that guided the founding and division and growth of our New England towns.

Benjamin Franklin will not be deemed a bigot of his time. In his recently published correspondence is given his letter written in 1787, to one presumably a Governor of Georgia, wherein he praises in high terms the New England method of establishing the settlements, with the meeting house and schools expressly secured as central features. He declares this is "excellent for

mutual protection, for the advantage of schooling to their children, for securing morals by the influence of religion, and for mutual improvement by civil society, and conversation," in comparison with which he declares that "In our way of sparse and remote settlements the people are without these advantages and we are in danger of bringing up a set of savages of our own color."

So well did what is now Boylston defeat the inauspicious earlier auguries derived from its rough hills, that in 1742 it attempted to secure a formal separation from Shrewsbury, urging as a reason, distance from the meeting house. This town might have been 144 years old at the present time but for the opposition of Shewsbury and Gov. Shirley's petulant veto. He objects to the multiplication of towns as being as undesirable in his majesty's interests for it meant an increase of representatives that might be troublesome. Instead of a separate town it became on December 17, 1742, the *North Parish of Shrewsbury.*

The records show that the North Parish began to pay for preaching on the first Sabbath after being set off. Before June the meeting house was begun, and in October the church was organized and the first minister ordained, though the sanctuary had neither floor, windows nor doors, pulpit nor pew.

Nineteen male members and sixteen female members were dismissed from the mother church in Shrewsbury. "The ministry lands lying within the North Parish" were set off to be "always for the use and improvement of the minister that may be settled in the north part aforesaid," and in consideration of the "right and interest in the meeting house," in Shrewsbury £32 10s. lawful money were to be paid over "when the North Parish, erected and covered a suitable frame for a meeting house for the worship of God among them."

These facts are honorable to the founders of these hill communities. The spirit of the pious Pilgrims was brought here undiminished in meaning, though the first colonial period had passed away.

The story of events before the organization of a separate town in 1786 comes from scanty records and must be briefly told. The most painstaking research by the competent historians in this region, and these are numerous, gives very little, a glimpse

here and there, of the home life of the rural community in the early part of the past century.

We might be sure however, that life was not dull, nor unthoughtful, which called for so constant and vivid struggle for common things and common needs. It did not lack excitement, for it was not sheltered by the walls of modern life, nor could it be called narrow, forced as these settlers were to share the cares of government in such a nation-building as this earth has only once seen, and shall never see again.

In this there would seem to have been very little Indian history. In the grant from and through Shrewsbury, no Indian name appears, all aboriginal titles having been extinguished by the General Court. In the northwest part of the town of Boylston, set off from Lancaster, the Indian associations were more direct, and, here is presented almost the sole incident of Indian war adventure to an inhabitant of this town; the often told experiences of Thomas Sawyer in 1705, carried off in an Indian raid, and ransoming himself and his companions in captivity by building a saw mill for the Canadian authorities.

Nevertheless, with the first settlers in this region, the whole story of Indian troubles was still comparatively fresh. Sudbury fight lived in the memory of the elders, or with a generation only once removed. The fresh romance of the Rice boys captured by a war party in 1704, in a Marlborough meadow, was sure to be kept alive by the fact that the lads were adopted by the Indians, and one had become a sachem.

Though no Indians ever actually brought disturbance to the settlement on and about this hill, the constant dread remained through many of these earlier years. There were two garrison houses, defenses on the north and east, in this immediate vicinity, another in the west part of the town near Stony Brook. The farmers carried firearms to church and field. The slender news channels of the day were kept vivid with Indian rumors.

Nor was the reason wholly withdrawn. In 1747 we find the town of Rutland petitioning the General Court to fortify their town against the common enemy, and all the able bodied men were drawn by the Selectmen for scouting.

In 1747, John Fitch (who gave his name to Fitchburg), was

carried off to Canada by a French and Indian war party. Holmes finely suggests the clinging tenacity of the Indian terror, when the venerable grandmother of a Boston household, on the day of the Bunker Hill fight, in her frenzy of alarm at the heavy din, is made to exclaim,

"Are they Indians? *Are* they Indians?"

It is told of a Boylston housewife of the early time, that having hung her dinner pot on the crane, she ran off to Marlborough in a sudden panic, returning a year after to find her kitchen affairs just as she had left them.

Surrounded as we are by the eternal means and stimulants to education, and accepting them as indispensable in our time, we are not to forget how good a school of development, in all that is noble and enduring, was supplied by the conditions of the New England settlement, in the middle period between the retirement of the savages and the establishment of separate national existence.

With Indian wars and rumors of wars, with the old French wars, that made no small drafts in these communities, there was a constant drill and training in citizen watch and ward. Arms were never out of their hands, nor preparation for defense long absent from their minds. Shrewsbury shared in 1745 in the expedition to Louisburg and Cape Breton. Men of Shrewsbury, and what is now Boylston, were present at Crown Point in 1755.

Two sons of Phineas Bennet, a settler in 1740 in the west part of this town now West Boylston, were both killed in the disastrous "morning fight" at Ticonderoga in 1758. Then came the Revolutionary war in which Boylston shared the notable annals of Shrewsbury.

It was in Shrewsbury, ten months before the Boston Tea Party, that a travelling pedler was made to surrender to be burned forthwith, thirty pounds of the prohibited herb, before this banned by town decree. It was Shrewsbury in 1774 that Ross Wyman called his Blacksmiths' Convention at Worcester, pledging their king of all the crafts, in that day, to do no work for the tories.

Our centennial national reviews have flashed a broad clear

light on the revolutionary epoch, to show that it was no sudden fervor but had strengthened in many neighborhoods and through many channels, in more than one generation. And when it came, it came to a people who had learned the art and spirit of defense, and shrunk not from self assertion.

But Boylston had her especial and equal share at the very threshold of the contest with the mother country. It was a struggle between parish and minister, after twenty-five years of mutually honored and happy relations. From Ward's history of Shrewsbury it appears that all the persons suspected of too much loyalty except one were inhabitants of this North Parish.

Among these five martyrs under suspicion was Rev. Mr. Morse, the first pastor of the church, a learned and widely-read man, staunch and immovable, who would continue to pray in public for the kirg, queen and royal family, until his people and townsmen called him to account, disarmed him and prevented him by a show of force from entering his pulpit. They could not drive him away, but they used his steely loyalty to whet the edges of their patriotism.

These are but shallow students of the Revolutionary period, who do injustice to the position and motives of men who were in that time held by circumstances of trust, and tie, to impulses as genuine as ever bound the subject in loyalty to his king.

The greater is the honor and reverence due to the patriots of that time, from this fact that the loyalists of regions like our own in Worcester County, were men of mark and strength who gave way not as reeds bend, but as strong oaks break. Rev. Mr. Morse lived at the close of the era of greatest ministerial dignity, and authority. For a quarter of a century he had exercised the authority of the New Testament bishop,

All the more striking, the patriotism of these Boylston men who did their duty, though the red line of excision ran through their own pulpit.

It is only from the meagre and scattered annals assembled from various towns of this region, that we gain a glimpse of the burdens and privations of the Revolution, and the resorts forced upon the poorer communities to adjust patriotism to poverty. As an instance in the town of Ward, now Auburn, in this county,

Thomas Todd, one of the town quota, accepted as bounty from his town "eighteen calves of middleing value, the calves to be kept and cared for free of charge for the three years term of service."

Boylston had her share, as part of Shrewsbury, in the honors that fell to their townsman, General Artemas Ward, a member of the Second Provincial Congress, appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of Congress, until a greater than he appeared, even Washington. And Boylston had more exclusively for herself, Ezra Beaman. One cannot read very far in the annals of that time, in this region without coming upon his name. It stood out as prominently as his great wayside inn, the Beaman Tavern overlooking the beautiful intervale of what is now West Boylston, for more than a century from 1764, one of the best known inns of New England. The largest land-holder of his section, lion-like and masterful in action, Ezra Beaman's name is continually repeated in town and church records. It was his grasp that laid hold on Pastor Morse. It was his company that was prompt in field. He was in service near, though not on duty at Bunker Hill fight.

To Capt. Ezra Beaman, on Feb. 18, 1775, came a letter of acknowledgement from John Avery of the "Committee of Donations," at Boston, for fifty-three bushels of rye and corn sent by the North Parish of Shrewsbury, "for the distressed inhabitants of this poor devoted town who are groaning under the rod of despotism;" so reads the missive. The names of forty pensioners of the war of the Revolution are given in Shrewsbury annals.

The growth of the North Parish of Shrewsbury, even in the trying period of the Revolution, kept alive its long cherished ambition (defeated 1742) to be a separate town. It was accomplished in 1786, the occasion we this day commemorate. It was a wonderful birth year, one of the most important and the most critical in the history of America. It seemed as if the free and generous spirit of devotion that had sustained the American colonies had actually burned itself out, and lay smothered in its own ashes.

The separate and disjointed provinces were jarring (almost warring) with each other. The Provincial Congress seemed to

have already collapsed. The separate states paying their own representatives to that body, often omitted paying or grossly neglected representation Thus the congress from thirteen states which should have numbered fifty-six members fell to thirty-five. There was a bitter wrangle between contiguous states over questions of trade, finance and of territory. Massachusetts closed her ports to British shipping, Connecticut threw her ports open to British vessels, but established imposts against Massachusetts. New York levied duties at Hell Gate on all Yankee crafts, on all hay and wood and supplies that crossed her borders from Connecticut, and on all market boats that came over from Jersey.

Jefferson writes from Paris to protest against the intention of Kentucky to separate not only from Virginia, but from the Union. Pennsylvania with blood and fire was raiding Connecticut settlers out of the historic valley of the Wyoming, and New Hampshire and New York were crossing bayonets on the soil of Vermont.

Massachusetts had trouble enough at home in the Shay Rebellion. The population of this state was about 350,000. All the states lay under the shadow of debt. Everywhere debtors were massed for mutual protection. Six years before 1786 the paper war issues of New England had ceased to circulate as money. Vagaries of legislation only made matters worse, and the attempt to set aside law brought confusion indescribable.

Worcester County had a population of a little over 50,000. There were entered on file in 1784 in the courts, 2000 actions for debt, and nearly as many the following year. There was a wild assault on property rights, upon law, and upon the lawyers as a profession. It was a sadly troubled page to be read even now. It was full of wide portents then. Washington wrote from his Potomac farm in terms most impetuous, asking if all that Massachusetts fought for in the Revolution, was to be thrown away.

Nor was the aspect of our affairs abroad more encouraging. Jefferson writes from Paris in 1786, where he had succeeded Franklin as minister: "American reputation in Europe is not such as to be flattering to us * * * The whole English nation hates us. Hostility is more deeply rooted than through the

war. England declines all arrangements with us. They declare that were Americans to ask to be taken back on the former footing, the petition would be absolutely rejected."

Franklin gives a few more cheerful views in his letter in the same year to an Amsterdam banker. He says: "The English papers are sending all the United States to destruction. By their accounts you would think we were in the utmost distress, in want of everything, in confusion, with no government, and wishing for that of England. Be assured my friend these are all fictions, mere English wishes not American realities. There are some few faults in our constitution, which is no wonder considering the stormy season in which they were made. And for the best I never saw greater or more undubitable marks of public prosperity in any country. The produce of our agriculture bears a good price, and is all paid in ready hard money. All the laboring people have high wages. Everybody is well clothed and well lodged, the poor provided for or assisted, all estates in town and country much increased in value. As to wishing for the English government, we should as soon wish for that of Morocco." This a picture out of the past worth preserving.

In 1786, this was a most thoroughly Protestant country. There were by their own report in 1784, only 32,500 Roman Catholics in the United States, of which only 600 were in New England, and 1700 in New York and New Jersey together, but there were 20,000 in Maryland, of whom 8000 were slaves.

In this year 1786, came the earliest scheme of colonization in the west. The first plan for the Ohio companies was shaped at Rutland in this county, in that year by Gen. Rufus Putnam and Joel Barlow. Not until 1786 was it made certain that the states would surrender to the general government their claims on the territory west of the Alleghanies. Connecticut made her concession in that year. This made the North-west territory a possibility. Massachusetts men embarked in this Ohio company had a prominent share in shaping the great ordinance of 1787, that dedicated the North-west to freedom.

And in this first colony ever planted on territory of the United States, were fifty persons from Rutland, carrying out from the heart of the commonwealth the lessons of its own past, and

establishing at the very threshold of the new West of one hundred years ago, the faithful pattern of the New England township, and New England town government.

We found in our own time, in the days of Bleeding Kansas, a close and perilous comparison between the civilization of the North and South. But the struggle was one that began a hundred years ago, and the New England founded in the West in that elder day, rested on bed rock, and saved the nation to freedom.

The year of 1786 is remarkable as the opening era of the great advance in material development. In this year Massachusetts laid the foundation of her splendid line of manufacturing industries by the state aid that brought out the first jenny and stock card in this country.

In 1786 John Fitch's first steamboat was tried on the Delaware. In 1787 Noah Webster had begun by public lectures his mission of the naturalization of the English tongue in America. In 1786 the great Methodist church of America, organized two years before as one flock in Christ by Welsey's orders, had begun to put forth direct efforts for the emancipation of slaves.

In 1786 the modern spirit of evangelical missions was awakened in England by William Carey. The first impulse to the great work of missions began in America with the opening of the century. These events and circumstances give an interest to the year 1786, which saw Boylston a separate town, no dull unmeaning sky arched above her.

The name is derived from one of the eminent Boylston families of Boston, who seemed to have stood for excellent examples in public spirit when the nation well founded was to become a nation fitly adorned. The head of this family made a munificent gift to Harvard College. The first gift of Ward Nicholas Boylston to this new town in 1797 was £40 to be kept as an accumulating fund for such use as the donor should subsequently direct.

The town was faithful to its trust through twenty-eight years, when the patron visiting the town in 1827, found his gift had grown to $1000. He died the following year and by his will directed that the sum of $300 should be given to bring the

total fund to $1450, for which in 1830, the town built the substantial and permanently useful granite structure, its Town Hall and school building. But the relation of church and town was to work one more territorial change.

It came when the town found it necessary to build a new meeting-house. A warm controversy took place as to its location. In all these scattered rural communities in that period, the first inquiry regarding the site of the new meeting-house, was "Where is the exact centre of the town." Other towns helped with committees and surveyors. Often the point when found proved unsuitable, or was changed by some prudential reason. It so happened in this case. The central point was found half a mile from where we now stand, but with a wisdom that has always defended itself, the committee decided to fix upon this summit for common and meeting-house; the earliest meeting-house having been built on a lower site near the burying ground. As in other New England towns we owe to the meeting house lot nearly all we have of the modern public square. All the more honor to Boylston's fathers that this noble common was bought, and not a free grant. There was a sufficient power in votes to sustain the action of the locating committee. The town having bought the present common, built the second meeting-house in 1793, on the site occupied by yonder white school house.

In 1795, Ezra Beaman and his neighbors, after an effectual protest drew off and formed with parts of adjoining towns the second parish of Boylston, Sterling and Holden, which in 1808 became West Boylston.

I can but believe this separation was necessary to save this rural town. Its inhabitants have always been widely dispersed farmers. Inevitably, the strongest nucleus of population was forecast for the intervale region in the west and north parts of its territory. It could never have become strong on this hill, which as happened in many other towns, might have become "the Old Common" with the stronger village centre of Boylston established at some lower level.

I believe it was well to save the town of Boylston to itself, and its very triumph over the Beaman party, strong and zealous

as they must have been, shows that the town stood well on its foundations.

Early records say of its inhabitants and first settlers that they were always frugal, industrious and temperate. This is what good Pastor Sumner had to declare of his Shrewsbury flock in his half century sermon in 1812, and he came among them in 1762. Rev. Peter Whitney of Northborough, whose history of Worcester County is a model of its kind, writing of Boylston, his next adjoining town, in 1793, and he had been more than a quarter of a century an observer, says: "It may be styled a rich town for they are not only clear of debt, but have several hundred pounds in their treasury. There are sure indications of wealth and prosperity among them. Here are some large and good farmers as perhaps anywhere in the country, who keep great stocks of cattle. The people raise all kinds of country produce especially beef, pork and grain, butter and cheese, vastly more than they consume, and carry more into the market perhaps than any town of its size and numbers."

From old records it is told that, previous to 1808, not less than three thousand bushels of rye with about the same quantities of corn and oats were produced in the town. During the winter season the farmers carried large quantities of rye meal to Boston, about forty miles, for which they realized $1.25 per bushel. At that time large quantities of cider were made from native fruit, grafted trees being unknown. There were thirty cider mills in town. And Boylston cider must have been in good repute. In 1786 when Rev. Mr. Crafts was ordained in Princeton one Adonijah Howe, as a special town messenger, was sent to this town "for cider and plates," and on another errand to Westminster "for knives and forks."

What a clatter of merry-making comes from the ordination dinner out of the past. Our early fathers and mothers were by no means a gloomy generation. One early witness of life in a northern Massachusetts town says "we were as poor as mice, but as merry as grigs." In fact they may have been too jolly, especially at ordination dinners, for in 1759 the grave Council of the Royal Governor of this province addressed the

clergy a solemn blast of censure against this tendency to jollity and feasting on such occasions.

Other than farming, Boylston has very little of industrial history. In the early day there were saw mills, and grist mills, filling mills and forges, and she has always had Sawyer's Mills; but the streams ran past her feet, and a thousand cattle were on her hills. She found her soil strong and deep, and good husbandry was and remains her specialty. She did have her share, indeed, in the household industries of the period in the last century when New England domestic manufacture was nearly equal to the ordinary wants of the inhabitants for clothing and common supplies.

They had few wants that could not be met by home and village craft. The mechanical industries of this county were in embryo but were already forecast by men of wonderful skill and ingenuitv, with whom Shrewsbury began to abound when she led the way in watches and rifles, and ploughs. Boylston has been content with her farms. She was prosperous as a farming town even when farming industry illuminated by modern agricultural science was still in the future.

I have no doubt that some of the early prosperous agriculturists of this region looked askance at book-farming and learned societies. And there were some very good results of farming in the older day. In the middle of the last century some of the large farmers of New England kept one hundred cows. In one case in Rhode Island, about, 1760, a herd of seventy-three cows gave ten thousand pounds of butter in five months, an average of nearly one pound from each cow per day.

It was not until late in the last century, that there began to be much discussion as to the improvement of live stock. In the matter of horses, saddle animals were highly valued, but the ox was the farm team. Pleasure vehicles were made impossible by the state of the early roads. Into one of the northern towns of this county came a "pleasure wagon," so-called in 1812, as a curiosity. The stage-coach was not born in England until late in the last century, and in this region the days of coaching only began with the completion of the Boston and Worcester turnpike in 1810. Good roads first brought the call among the country

people for good trotters, and the descendant of Justin Morgan, foaled at Springfield, Mass., in 1793, began to stir the dust at the close of the last century.

The first county agricultural exhibition ever held in the country, was the work of Elkanah Watson, at Pittsfield in 1810, to show off three Merino sheep, and the Merino sheep fever a little later had a tremendous run. But there were three earlier less fortunate Merinos, that deserved a better fate. These were two ewes and a ram, brought direct from Spain in 1793, by a Boston citizen, who gave them to a friend in the country. That friend "simply ate them up," and he himself remembered the circumstance a few years later, when he paid $1000 for a Merino ram.

Boylston as a farming town has been fortunate in its location. It is said that a central point on a line drawn through the state from north to south, rests on a Boylston hill. So that in the Heart of the Commonwealth this must be the "*Heart of Hearts.*" This rural town rests like an emerald on the bosom of a county throbbing with manufacturing industries, inspired by local inventive skill. You may search the world in vain to find so closely set a galaxy of such eminent names as Bigelow, Whitney and Blanchard, sons of Worcester County, and of this neighborhood.

The stone rejected by the builders of Gov. Belcher's day, one hundred and fifty years ago, has become the head of the corner of Massachusetts industries. Worcester County stands to-day among the first few counties of the United States in agricultural wealth. Where stands its peer, when its mechanical industries seek comparison? Yet they said of this hill country, it "could never make a figure—could never attract settlers." The beaver in the day of the wilderness knew where to find descending waters; so, all up and down our valleys, the early mill-wheels followed in the beaver's track, and the flumes started where he built his dams.

President Dwight's Tour gives a very sunny and delightful picture of Worcester County about the year 1790, with busy mill-streams on every side among pleasant farms.

We are not called upon here to rehearse the oft-told tale of

the wonders of the nineteenth century, the advance in mechanical industry and applied science, nor even the progress in husbandry. But we may well note that nothing has ever superseded, or brought a lighter value to the farmers' occupation, and the share that those whose interests are solidly in the soil, have had in the building of the nation, and its maintenance.

The founder of these Massachusetts towns were careful, patient and watchful. This thing is evident from Boylston town and church records while these records were united. They went into public affairs with intense fidelity. The building of the first meeting-house called for no less than fourteen precinct meetings; the matters of the second meeting-house in 1791 and years following, occupied no less than twenty town meetings.

Public service has never needed civil service reform so little, the duties of good citizenship have never been anywhere so well exemplified, as in the New England town system.

Boylston has always been a good and kindly nursing mother to her sons. This region is the abundant source of the best vital forces. Health and vigor are the possession of those who, untainted by vice, drink in the full influence of these hills, and the breezes that sweep over them. The hill towns of Worcester County, have always favored the longevity of their inhabitants. Within the year 1885, there were thirty-nine deaths in Worcester County of persons who had passed the age of ninety years; several of these had nearly completed the century.

Here stands the church organization, founded with the town, and it remains the only church organization, and it retains the faith of the fathers. The great body of the people of the county, from the beginning till after the Revolution, belonged to the Congregational denomination. In 1783 there were forty-seven towns in this county, with a church of the congregational order in every town, and there was in 1881, a similar church in all these towns except two.

The history of a church is no more the history of the town, but the rich fruits of the early care of the fathers remain, though the system has passed away. In Boylston from the first establishment of its separate meeting-house the influence of this church and the succession of its pastors, eminent in character

and attainments, has given a constantly uplifting force to public sentiment in this community. Pastor Morse, notwithstanding his tenacious adhesion to the cause of the king, is nevertheless to be honored with the fact that, for the first twenty-five years of town and parish life, he was one of the ablest ministers of this region. The united periods of settlement of Mr. Morse and three of the succeeding pastors—Fairbanks, Cotton and Sanford—cover one hundred and one years of ministerial influence of the best and choicest type. All were broad and scholarly men.

To the late Rev. William H. Sanford, whose pastorate fills a period of twenty-five years, from 1832, belongs the credit awarded to him by both church and town, of bringing to a happy issue the affairs of a most difficult and disturbed period. In his time, and guided by his skill and carefulness, the third meeting-house was built, the present structure, first occupied in 1835.

Boylston has from the first been heedful of the care of her youth and early realized the measures of early instruction, inwrought into her original plan. It was doubtless as true here in the earlier day as was said of Princeton by her historian Russell: "Any one need but run his eye over the old records of births in the Town Clerk's office to be convinced that half a dozen familes constituted a very respectable school district." Though the number of her college-bred sons, since the first settlement of the town, falls short in comparison with those who have sought other callings, the list is respectable, while Boylston has sent far and wide, men of sagacity and good business qualifications. She has furnished two Mayors to Worcester, and a numerous array of Worcester business men, of success in their vocations, and excellent citizens; good men, noble women.

This community, earnest in the outset, and faithful in the narrower ways of earlier life, has not shrunk from any of the duties and sacrifices this century has imposed. Boylston gave eighty-one of her sons to the armies of the Union in the great rebellion, and seven of these laid down their lives that the nation might live.

When our men of middle age were school boys, it seemed as if the military spirit had gone out of our communities. The treasured firearms of revolutionary memory, the sword of the

ancestor of brave days of old, clung to the walls of the farmer's home, or were gathered in antiquarian collections. But their suggestions seemed far remote from any dangers or duties of our time. Bird o' Fredum Sawin, indeed, found out in the Mexican war why "baggonets wuz peaked," but New England set a light value on the school and did not greatly heed the lesson.

Forty years ago the militia service held a doubtful place among sober-minded citizens, as furnishing in muster fields and Cornwallis days, only serious perils for the youth and those more feeble in the face of temptation. And this dread supplied one of the first terrors of the gathering to arms in 1861, the possible evils of a disbanded soldiery at the end of the conflict. But Boylston, like other communities, re-absorbed into civil life her sons, when our armies gave them back, as rain sinks into the mellow earth, the sublimest proof history has yet furnished among the lessons of the Republic, that enlightenment and civilization, with the Bible and the common school as guiding forces, need not impair the sterner qualities that are the bulwarks and defenses of the State.

Boylston has been faithful and sympathizing in the leading reforms and benevolent measures of the eras as they arrived. Her best public sentiment was early enrolled on the side of Emancipation. Her cider mills gave way promptly before the advance of Total Abstinence. It is worth much for Boylston to have enrolled among its townsmen for over forty years one whose life was so fully freighted with usefulness for his age and time as that of John B. Gough.

He came among you a young man, yet old in the experiences of the woe of drunkenness, with life prospects apparently blighted by the drunkard's cup, with heart and nature scarred by grief and shame; with a sadness that was never quite parted from in the brightest portions of his illustrious career.

From his wide mission tours, in this land or in foreign lands, it was to Hillside he came back to recuperate in a town he loved to call his own And when he went out for the last time to return in life no more, his remains were brought to Hillside to receive the world's tribute of grief and affection, that came flashing across continents and under seas.

One hundred years have brought great changes to the world and to the race from whom the earliest settlers of these hills was derived. At the end of the reign of Charles II, two hundred years ago, the English colonists in America numbered 200,000. In two hundred years their increase has been two hundred and fifty fold. In the century, whose close we celebrate to-day, the United States has increased its territory ten fold.

The influx of a population, alien in blood and purposes from the early founders of the nation, has nearly all taken place within these hundred years. They share our destinies and will share in shaping them. "We march to fate abreast."

In one hundred years the Anglo Saxon race, in whom rests the world's hope, has grown from six to one hundred millions. It now comprises one-fifteenth of mankind; it rules one-third of the earth's surface, and one-quarter of the people. Within the century the world has been belted by the emigrant and the adventurer. Let Alexander weep,—there are no more wildernesses to be conquered, no more virgin lands to be explored.

Seventy years ago a Boylston pastor preached a clear and ringing discourse on the topic of Missions, and his plea, in 1816, for Christian Evangelization of the new West as a national necessity, reads like the most vivid Home Missionary appeal of to-day, notwithstanding the New West of Pastor Cotton's time lay far on this side of the Mississippi. "After me the deluge," shouted the infamous favorite of a licentious king, and the red deluge broke on France nearly one hundred years ago.

"After us those for whose estate and welfare we shall be held accountable," was the motto of the founders of this hill town, and well has their pious care been answered.

After the oration, in introducing the Poet of the Day, the President of the Day said:

Our youth is passed amid the illusions of poetry, and in the natural order of events on occasions like this, sober fact usually comes first and the poetry afterward. This is following custom, and it may be that the custom is based upon the facts of life after all, because the illusive poetry of childhood soon evaporates before the actual facts of life, and then comes the real inspiration of life in its sober realization of the just proportion, which the chastened mind converts into real poetry. To-day, following the instincts of our feelings, we desire to be filled with the real inspiration of this occasion, and therefore we have called in the art of the poet.

The Poet of the Day is a descendant of one of the honored families of Boylston, and I now have the pleasure and the honor of introducing William N. Davenport, Esq., of Marlborough, as Poet of the Day.

# POEM.

## I.

One hundred years of story and song,
O'er the river of time have floated along,
Freighted with cargoes of hopes and of fears,
The smiles of affection and miseries' tears,
To the ocean of ages, the isles of the past,
Where all errors with charity's mantle o'ercast,
Are hidden from sight 'neath the waves foaming crest
And lie safely locked in oblivion's breast.
A century's years have passed swiftly away,
And sunk 'neath the vortex of nature's decay,
Since our dear mother town, without hindrance or fear,
Stepped out of its cradle and began its career.
T'was a morning in March, the bleak air was chill,
The cold winds of winter blew bitter and shrill,
When the infant decided, with a will of its own,
To forsake its fond parent and go it alone.
Its mother objected, she said 'twas too small,
That its castles of air would ingloriously fall,
And that when despoiled of its infantile charms,
'Twould be glad to return to her sheltering arms.
But Shrewsbury, like other good mothers we know,
Was compelled to submit, and let the child go.
Kind friends gathered round it, it flourished and grew,
'Neath the guidance of men who kept heaven in view.
Who sought to establish without blemish or flaw,
Our dear native Boylston, with virtue its law.
The foundations of Church and of school they laid deep,

That those who should follow, might gather and reap
The harvest of blessings, that constantly fall
From religion's pure fountains, and learning's proud halls.
They were men of convictions, of true simple heart,
With plain, homely logic, untainted by art,
Who bent with a smile 'neath the chastening rod,
And put their whole trust in a beneficent God.
Plain yeomen were they—humble tillers of earth,
With a patriot's love for the land of their birth.
Determined to live in a land truly free,
They defied the invader from over the sea.
They shouldered the musket, the plowshare laid by,
With a firm resolution to conquer or die.
Then back to their homes, the fierce conflict ended,
The life of the soldier in the farmer they blended.
Ever ardent for liberty, simple and pure,
The praise of the tyrants they could not endure.
So when Pastor Morse endeavored to teach,
And also to practice, as well as to preach,
That to monarchs and kings allegiance was due,
That to England's proud sway they should ever prove true,
He was told in language emphatic, and plain,
That should the offence be committed again,
For his labors of love he must seek a new field,
That upon this one point they never would yield.
The pastor persisting, was soon banished hence,
Where loyalist teachings would not give offence.
They were men of stern lives, kind-hearted and true,
They built for their children, they builded for you,
And then to our keeping, the heritage left,
Of none of its beauty, or grandeur bereft.

## II.

But 'tis a fact, none can dispute,
A terse homely maxim, that none dare refute,
That a child that disobeys its mother,
Will come to grief sometime or other.
Two and a score of years passed by,
So swiftly do the moments fly,

So short is life, the little span,
That marks the pilgrimage of man,
So brief the space between our birth,
And our resting place in mother earth,
That many of the little band
Who guarded with protecting hand,
The infant town on its natal day,
Had passed from all earth's scenes away,
Had gone to seek that just reward,
Prepared for all who serve the Lord,
Ere their Western brothers prayed the state,
In the year of grace eighteen hundred eight,
To carve from Boylston's teeming breast,
A strip of land in the prosperous West,
And cause the child to undergo,
Some portion of its mother's woe:
Thenceforth West Boylston graced the plain,
Of Worcester County's fair domain.

III.

One hundred years of time's vast span,
Outnumbering far, the years of man,
Have sped since that auspicious morn,
When our old mother town was born.
What mighty changes these years have brought,
What wonders Father Time hath wrought.
Nations have risen since that day,
Have flourished, and have passed away.
Monarchs have sought to stem the tide,
Of Liberty's advancing stride,
But everywhere beneath the sun,
Wherever man his course has run,
The Goddess rules far stronger now,
Than when the crown first decked her brow.
No more the serf shall bend the knee,
The slave from all his fetters free
Stands disenthralled, his slavery o'er,
Nor longer knocks at freedom's door.

The visions of our grandsires' dream
Vanished before the age of steam.
Around the world magnetic bands,
Securely bound by faithful hands,
All things proclaim of joy or woe,
Borne onward by the electric flow.
Science and art with each have vied,
Inspired alike with honest pride,
To onward press to greater things,
To touch the chords whence knowledge springs,
And 'neath their banners white unfurled,
To bear its blessings through the world.

IV.

Oh! pleasant scenes of early days,
How changed thy walks in all their ways,
How changed thy woods that graced the hills,
And overhung thy sparkling rills.
The woodman's axe has spared them not,
Nor sacred held the wood-land grot,
But ruthlessly in quest of gain,
The monarchs of the wood hast slain.
No more we hear the bugle horn,
Rousing the County folk at morn,
No more the dashing tally-ho,
Through summer's heat and winter's snow,
Speeds gaily down the village street,
Behind the coursers strong and fleet.
For now the sturdy iron horse,
Through teeming valleys takes its course,
While backward, from each towering hill,
Its warnings echo loud and shrill.
No more the Crier, strong and brown,
With clanging bell goes up and down,
Proclaiming in stentorian voice,
That John, and Jane, have made their choice,
And that next Sabbath they will be
Bound fast in legal unity.

V.

O change! why dost thou thus destroy
The varied scenes of childhood's joy?
Is it because the laws of fate
Have long decreed their present state?
Or do you hope to better build
Than those who first these acres tilled?
If such thy hope, oh, spare, I pray,
And keep thy vandal hands away,
Far from that humble woodside cot,
To me that almost sacred spot,
Where on a bright November morn,
My infant eyes beheld life's dawn.
Still let my heart about it twine,
Like incense, round the sacred shrine.

VI.

Where are the faces that once we met?
The familiar forms we shall ne'er forget.
The kindly friends of childhood's years,
Who shared with us its joys and fears,
As side by side, in the days of yore,
We stored our minds with school-book lore.
And thought to scale fame's lofty height,
By learning how to read and write.
The stones in yonder churchyard gray,
Beneath the mournful pine trees' sway,
Record that many, by a loving hand,
Have been led from earth to the better land.
The living are scattered far and wide,
By mountain peak and ocean tide.
Wherever fickle fortune calls
They seek for wealth in Mammon's halls.
They burrow 'neath the fruitful ground,
Where Nature's treasures most abound.
They till the earth, they speed the train,
They face the dangers of the main.
In learning's halls they seek for fame,

And strive to win an immortal name.
From North to South, from East to West,
Throughout our land by heaven blest,
Where'er ambition leads the van,
And fires and sways the heart of man,
Old Boylston's sons in peace abide,
With honor for their shield and guide.
But still where'er their footsteps turn
For the old town their hearts still yearn.

## VII.

Our native town. We hail thee now
And place the laurel on thy brow,
And as your joyful birthday bells,
The peans to thy glory swells,
We stand uncovered at thy shrine,
And round thy brows fresh garlands twine.
Forsaking all the cares of life,
Its busy scenes, its daily strife,
We've come from factory, shop and farm,
From cares that try and scenes that charm,
From the marts of trade we've gathered here,
To welcome thy one hundredth year.
We've gathered from our several ways,
To add the tribute of our praise,
The homage of our song to pay
To thee on thy Centennial Day.
The Muses join, with loud acclaim,
To swell the glory of thy name.
The breezes catch the glad refrain,
And send it echoing o'er the plain.
Far o'er thy high majestic hills,
Adown thy sparkling, rippling rills,
On the Nashua's advancing wave,
Through the quiet vales its waters lave,
Past frowning rock and mossy dell,
Past flowery mead, and wooded fell,
All Nature adds its roundelays,
To swell the measure of thy praise.

VIII.

'Tis said that treasure once was hid
Beneath thy green sward's coverlid.
That treasure for which strong men sought,
By thirst for gold and greed distraught;
Who, through the watches of the night,
With naught to guide but the moon's pale light,
Into thy bosom plunged the spade,
Then upward through the glistening blade.
And when at last they reached the *pot*,
And spell-bound stood upon the spot,
Upon their view an army broke,
When mid the muskets din and smoke,
The kettle slipped from off the bar,
And sank into the depths afar.
So may thy blessings, dearly bought,
If through unholy impulse sought,
If greed should seek, or avarice burn,
From honor's course thy path to turn,
Oh! cause them quick to disappear,
And heap the earth-clods on their bier.

IX.

Go on, old town, to virtue true,
With eagles' flight thy course pursue,
And may thy sons and daughters be
True to themselves, their God, and thee.
On to the future take thy way,
Refulgent as the orb of day.
Onward old town, we love thee yet,
Thy pleasant scenes we'll not forget,
For thee our hearts shall ever yearn,
To thee our fondest hopes will turn.
And when at last life's fleeting breath
Checked by the unseen hand of death,
Our bark of Life, with sails all furled,
Shall bear us to the better world,
Here may we come and lie at rest,

Within thy kind maternal breast.
Go on! and may thy future be,
Bright as the hopes we have for thee.
Nor cloud, nor shadow overcast.
Nor Summer's gale nor Winter's blast,
Dispel the hopes that round thee twine,
Of happiness, for thee and thine.
Our prayers to heaven will still ascend,
To keep and guide thee to the end.

# AFTER-DINNER EXERCISES.

The after dinner exercises took place in the speakers' tent, and were opened with the "Poet and Peasant" overture by the band. The President then introduced Mr. George L. Wright, of Boylston, as toast-master, who made following remarks.

*Mr. President* :—It seems but proper and fitting in opening these post-prandial exercises that a few additional words of welcome and congratulation should be expressed to the sons and daughters of the old town, and the descendants of Boylston families, who have honored the occasion with their presence. It has been said that he who forgets not the place of his birth, and the trees whose fruit he plucked, and under whose shade he gamboled in the days of his youth, is not a stranger to the sweetest impressions of the human heart. It is especially gratifying to the present citizens of the town to welcome back so many of her former citizens; natives, who after years of absence, have returned on this Centennial Day, which marks the close of the first century of the town's corporate existence to renew the associations of the past, to recall the memories of childhood, of youth, and of early manhood; the days which of all the seasons of life cast the strongest impressions and leave the most delightful memories. We welcome you back to the old home, to these hills and valleys, to this heritage of the fathers, to this soil wherein repose the dust of parents and kindred, and made sacred by the tenderest associations of life. Many of you have gone out from the town and

chosen homes in distant places; nearly every State in the Union has her representative in this day's gathering. The noble record of Boylston's sons and daughters is a fitting illustration of the sturdy character of the town. Many there are who have adorned almost every walk and calling in life; whose names and records have alike done honor to themselves, the old town and the communities in which they have been placed. Statesmen could be named whose voices have been heard, and whose influence has been felt in both the councils of State and Nation. Soldiers, whose bravery has been an honor to the citizen-soldiery of the Republic. Philanthropists and divines whose eloquence and pleadings in the causes of religion, temperance and humanity have been heard and felt in every quarter of the globe. The spot on which we are gathered teems with historic interest. In yonder cemetery rest the early settlers of this town. On the commons, hard by, stood the ancient church and school-house, while scattered around it stand the houses which for the greater part of the century were the homes of the Boylston pastors—Morse, Fairbanks, Hooper, Cotton, Russell, Sanford and Bigelow. Every inch of ground is replete with christianizing and elevating influences and associations which have made Boylston what it has been. We are honored, in this day's services, with the presence of representatives from the parent towns—Lancaster and Shrewsbury, as well as the entire Lancaster circle of towns, while the only daughter, West Boylston, completes the family circle. We greet you all with the kindliest of feelings and most cordial of greetings. At the Bi-Centennial Celebration of the old town of Lancaster, in 1853, the following toast was offered to the town of Boylston:

"Boylston took to herself Shrewsbury's leg and ran away from her mother, but her industry and many virtues have done honor to herself and her parentage."

James Davenport, Esq., in replying for the town, closed his remarks with the following sentiment:

"As the two branches of the Nashaway which flowed separately all the way from Ashburnham on the north, and Holden on the south, at different distances until they arrived at Lancaster, did not leave the place until they had united into one, and

flowed placidly together towards the Merrimac in an unbroken union; so may this meeting have the effect to cement the good feelings of this great family until the Nashaway shall cease to flow." And this sentiment we now offer as Boylston's greeting upon its Centennial Day. I have the pleasure of offering as the first toast:

*The day we celebrate, which welcomes back the sons and daughters of the old town. May this re-union cement anew our love for the old home.*

RESPONSE BY THE BAND,

which gave Bucallossi's "Hunting Scene."

*The town of Boylston, although her growth has been small, her influence has been wide and her record good. May the second century, upon which she has now entered, prove as prosperous as the first.*

In offering this toast, the toast-master referred to the difficulty which the early settlers of Boylston encountered in their attempts to become a town, and which ended in their becoming the North Precinct of Shrewsbury; and of the subsequent attempts, at last successful, in 1786. In calling for the response to this toast, he introduced a gentleman who had always been deeply identified with the highest interests of both church and town, who had served nearly forty years as one of the deacons of the church, and nearly as long as clerk of the parish; thirty-six years as Town Clerk; who had twice served the town in the General Court of the Commonwealth; and who had been honored with nearly every office in the gift of the town — Deacon Henry H. Brigham.

REMARKS OF HENRY H. BRIGHAM, ESQ.

That the growth of the town has been small, the reasons are obvious. It is not because its inhabitants have not been prolific, as formerly there were many large families; eight to fifteen chil-

dren in a family were not uncommon. It was formerly the custom that when a child was born a Note of Thanksgiving was put up in church on the following Sabbath for its safe delivery. There were two families of fifteen children each brought up at the same time. It was said to be alternately Andrew Bigelow, Benjamin Houghton; Andrew Bigelow, Benjamin Houghton. We are a community ef agriculturists. We have no mechanical or other industries to retain our young people. As soon as they arrive at mature age they are obliged to seek employment elsewhere; but we have the satisfaction of knowing that healthful influences have gone forth that are widespread and far reaching. Many of our young men have gone forth who occupy positions of influence and respectability in many of our large cities; especially may we make mention of our neighboring city of Worcester. Two of its Mayors were from this town. From the time of the first organization of the city government, nearly forty years ago, it has had its representatives from this town. Many of its enterprising business men, Water Commissioner Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and several of its most prominent Civil Engineers were from this town. Of the professionals, there has been a goodly number of ministers of the gospel, among whom may be mentioned Jonathan Longley, John Flagg, Jonathan Bigelow, Asahael Bigelow, Andrew Bigelow, D. D., William Whipple, Abijah Stowell, Willard Brigham. Of the Medical profession, Dr. John Andrews was physician of the town forty years. Two young men, graduates from Cambridge and New York Medical Colleges, were sent out last year, one to Rhode Island, the other to Pennsylvania. Of the legal profession there have been several; a specimen of which we have had in the delivery of the poem to-day. There have been many noble women, several of whom have become the wives of clergymen. Among them may be mentioned three from the Bush family, three from the Hooper family, two from Rev. Ward Cotton's family, one from the White family, one from the Kendall family, two from the Davenport families. There has been musical talent for which the town has been noted; especially in the line of descent from Deacon Levi Moore, who was leader of the singing at the time of deaconing the hymns nearly a century ago. It was said that all of his descendants were singers,

and it has proved to be so, as they have been the leading singers in this town from that time to the present. One of the families who went to West Newton have for fifty years been the leading singers and musicians there. Two families, one of thirteen children, who removed to Ashland, have been the leading singers and organists in the several churches there for forty years. If we go to Springfield we find there one of the finest musical establishments in that city kept by a young man from this town. If we go to the State of Ohio we find a noted Professor of Music there from this town. And so of many other places that might be mentioned. We are a temperance people, and are all prohibitionists. When called upon to vote whether intoxicating liquors shall be sold in town or not, the vote is an unanimous No. Fifty years ago there were three stores and a tavern where rum was sold, and everybody drank it. No fault was found with the seller; but the person who got intoxicated was blamed because he would drink so. Soon after that time the sale in all those places was voluntarily given up, and for forty years no rum has been sold in town, consequently very little of the effects of intoxicating drinks have been seen. If the record of the town, during the past century, has been good, may it be far better during the century upon which we now enter.

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Old Bay State, the brightest star in the national constellation, whose government grants full security to every citizen. We greet her representative here to-day.*

HON. HENRY C. GREELEY,

of Clinton, Executive Committee for the Seventh District, responded to this toast.

He returned thanks for the very complimentary allusion to the mother state, remarking that no child would go very far wrong who thought well of its parents and kept a good hold on the maternal apron strings. He brought congratulations from the state government, expressing great regard for the smaller towns and the work they were doing in sending forth men and

women well developed physically and of great intellectual and moral strength. His words of counsel were that they "*cherish* the *country school*, and the *old church* of the fathers."

*The early settlers of Boylston. We honor their deeds and cherish their memory. What they sowed in danger, hardship and privation their descendants reap in ease and prosperity.*

Responses were made by Ezra Sawyer, of Worcester, for the Sawyer family, (the first settlers of Boylston); Rev. George S. Ball, of Upton, for the Ball family, and Wm. Fred Holcombe, M. D., of New York City, a grandson of Col. Jotham Bush, and great-great-grandson of John Bush, first of the name in Boylston, and who settled, in or about 1729, the homestead occupied by the family until about thirty years ago.

RESPONSE OF EZRA SAWYER, ESQ.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—I am glad to be here to-day to participate in the ceremonies of this Centennial Day. I am glad to look in the faces of the descendants of the early settlers of the good old town of Boylston. In responding to this toast I have but little to say of the Sawyer family. I cherish the memory of my ancestors, and we honor their deeds to-day. They certainly sowed in danger, hardship and privation. We can trace the Sawyer family back to three brothers who came from England and settled in this vicinity. One in Berlin, one in Sterling, one in Lancaster, my father's family came from the one who settled in Lancaster. They suffered much from the depredations and cruelties of the Indians. One of the family was shot while at work in the field with his brother, who was taken prisoner with another man, and taken to Canada. It was soon learned that they were mechanics and millwrights, by trade. They were offered their freedom if they would build them a saw-mill. They built the mill and were given their freedom, and then they came back to Lancaster. Thomas, son of this Elias Sawyer, came to the south part of Lancaster (which was soon set off with a part of Shrewsbury and incorporated as the town of

Boylston), and built saw and grist mills which, for a long term of years, did a prosperous and flourishing business. These mills and their location has always borne the name of Sawyer's Mills, of which there is hardly anything left to trace where the mills stood. There are two houses left, one built by Thomas Sawyer, and one built by my father, Joseph S. Sawyer. There is in the chimney of the house built by Thomas Sawyer a stone on which is the date of its building. My father was a Clothier, so-called in those days, who had a mill for coloring, shearing and dressing home-spun and woven woolen cloth. I saw a coat a few years ago, the cloth of which he colored and dressed. The coat had then been worn more than twenty years, and it still was not in bad condition, showing how they sewed in those days. They sowed seed which pertained not only to the physical and outer man, but to the intellectual and spiritual. Some of the first work they did was to build and establish the church and the school. I can just remember when my father and mother joined the church over which Rev. Ward Cotton was pastor. My two older brothers, Caleb K. and Joseph S., with myself, were baptized at the same time. I never shall forget the feelings of awe and reverence that I felt when he laid his hand on my head, and ever afterwards I had great respect for him as a man of God and I thank God daily that my parents taught me when about to retire at night, to turn my thoughts to God in prayer, and I wish to testify that it has been a great help to me all my life. As to the reaping of what they sowed, there never was a time when the people of this town and country were so well housed, fed and clothed as they are to-day. There never was a time when such good care was taken of the sick, the insane, the orphan and the unfortunate as at the present time. There never was a time when there were such opportunities for education, culture and development in all that is good and true as now. Look at agriculture, mechanics, and all the sciences, and see what progress is being made. Look at the accumulation of wealth. It is said that we are, as a nation, three millions richer at sunset than we are at sunrise every day. I will close by saying that with all this progress and these opportunities, there comes a fearful responsibility. May we be able to meet it.

### Remarks of Rev. George S. Ball.

*Mr. President:*—I respond to that sentiment with some reluctance, because I am conscious of inability amid the altered circumstances of to-day, to do anything like justice to the characters of the early settlers of our New England towns. To do this we need the genius of history with a power to become a part of that *past*, so as to set forth in its true light the dangers, hardships and privations of their lot. It is not alone to recall the one century since the incorporation of your town which is needed, but almost two. What do one hundred and seventy-five years signify of change here? So wonderful that, if a description could be true to their courage, fortitude, patience and energy,—to their hopes and fears, their loves and losses,—you would accuse one of romance or having just come from the perusal of the Arabian Nights of Entertainment from which he had borrowed coloring. The reality is full of romance. The young man and his bride gather up a few articles of necessity and strike out for many weary miles into a howling wilderness to make a home. Their faith in God and each other makes them strong for the long weary work. The cloud and sunshine fleck their lives as it will the delicately robed and gloved couple that start in life's work amid the advantages and prosperity of this later day of civilization and progress. We have no records, no key to unlock their inner lives save as the majority of these settlers expressed themselves in some public act or vote that told of their faith, hope and purpose for themselves or their posterity. Newspaper reporters and reviewers were not then watching as with eagle eye from every hill-top for some fact or fiction to hurry it into print informing you, at the next issue, of matters about yourself and neighbors that were surely news. These settlers were not grumblers and faultfinders. They attended to their own business and found enough of it, and went on with their tasks, asking only what is present duty. Like all others who do God's will, they planted larger than they knew. In founding a town, they planted and nourished that germ of Democracy which has grown through great states into one of the great nationalities of the world. To-day we see no sign of their poverty, and yet they

must have been poor. They, that are dressed in soft raiment, live in kings' houses. They have no cause to face the privations of a new country, to cut down the forests, clear the land and break the virgin soil that they may sow and reap their bread in the "sweat of the brow," and still live on the coarsest fare, with a log hut for shelter, and toil and labor and wait. Thus our fathers began. They were the great *Commoners*, the bone and sinew of the people, the practical brains from which has come so much worthy our admiration and gratitude. We are to remember that the town was incorporated near the close of the Revolutionary war. They gave freely of their means and men to prosecute it, and yet, when the currency was so debased that a silver dollar would buy more goods than forty of their currency, and a "Spanish milled dollar was worth seventy-five in the same currency," they shrank not from their duty as citizens and petitioned and received their charter for a town. Few of the rising generation, amid the plenty of our homes and the money passing through the hands of all classes, can have any idea of the simplicity and poverty of those days. It was an age of "home-spun." The furnishing of their houses and adornment of rooms went not beyond necessities. Instead of the piano there was the music of the spinning wheels; instead of the melodeon the click of the shuttle and the dull thud of the lay of the hand-loom as it beat up to its place the stout weft These home-spun, home-wove fabrics furnished the ordinary clothing of the family—warm in winter, cool in summer. At night their houses were lighted with tallow-dipped candles. These houses, also very plain, were innocent of paint without and within. The furniture and adornments limited generally to necessities merely. The uncarpeted floor scrupulously clean, but well sanded, was the pride of the house-wife of that day. Food was plentiful and luscious if plain. Appetites were undoubtedly good, and the festivities of quiltings, huskings and thanksgivings gave ample seasons for their indulgence. At such times, if the tables groaned, the boys and girls, young men and maidens, laughed; and grave seniors smiled benignantly as they recalled the past. Books were few but good, and the schools and churches well attended. Out of all this came the noblest product of New England—noble men and women, our

sires and mothers. As the crude iron is brittle, and wants fibre and strength, we put it under tremendous pressure; so souls under these outward pressures grew, and as storm and cloud and sorrow environed them, they reached up for God's light and found comfort and peace in commerce with the skies. We rejoice in their deeds, in their English blood. I do for one. Say what you will of England to-day, yet the stock is good. We are proud of it. It is stalwart, liberty-loving. It bore transplanting to these shores well, and may I not appeal to the history of New England, and of our towns, to vindicate my conviction; it has not deteriorated. And let the deeds of your townsmen, in the late war, show you that the patriotic fire of the sires still burns with undiminished brightness in the bosoms of the sons.

*The Church and Ministry of Boylston, may its sacred influence and the faithful ministration of those who labor at its altar ever guide this people in ways of truth and holiness.*

Responses by Rev. Israel Ainsworth, the present pastor, and by Rev. Henry S. Kimball, of Dayville, Conn., a former acting pastor.

### Response of Rev. Israel Ainsworth.

The seven men who have preceded me in the pastorate of the Boylston church, have not been able to boast of royal blood, as some of the natives of this town, of whom we have just heard, could. But they were royal men nevertheless. Men of God, men who had the educational, moral and religious good of the people at heart. This town owes very much to the church, for it was the religious character of the first settlers which led them to seek for incorporation, first as a precinct, than as a town. During the one hundred and forty-three years of its existence, the church here, under the leadership of its able and faithful ministers, has sought to mould and fashion the lives of the sons and daughters of this place in righteousness, and fit and qualify them. by inspiring within them a desire after the highest and best things for usefulness here and blessedness hereafter. We have no reason to be ashamed of my predecessors in the ministry of this

church. They were not a whit behind their contemporaries who filled the pulpits in the churches of this vicinity. Whatever we may think, at this date, of the political views of the first pastor, we must admit that he was a man of uncommon intellectual ability and an earnest Christian minister. Those who succeeded him were not all of one mind, and indeed, had they been we should not have had the respect for them which we now have Educated men are thinking men, and educated Christian ministers do not think less than other men of culture and refinement. The theological differences which have occurred in the churches of New England have not failed to disturb the Boylston church, and though this church has remained true to the Evangelical faith of the fathers, it has received some of the additional light from God's Holy Word for which the fathers prayed. The church and ministry here have not neglected to take a deep interest in the educational welfare of the young. The names of Cotton and Sanford will long be remembered in this connection, for they sought by precept and example to emphasize the feeling of those who laid the foundations of this Republic, that the church and the common school were necessary to the continuance of the life of the democratic-republican institutions of this country. A Sunday-school was established by the church here in 1818, and the principle of total abstinence from the use of ardent spirits was made binding upon its members as early as 1833. This church has been catholic in its spirit and treatment of Christians of other denominations. Several attempts have been made to establish other churches in this town, but they have failed, not because of opposition from the First Church, but because all real worshippers of God in Christ have been made to feel at home in the old church; made to feel that Christianity and not sectarianism was the only essential to true church fellowship. Other towns in this county with a population no larger than that of Boylston, have several church organizations; but I believe that this church will stand alone in the future as in the past, if it continues to manifest that spirit of Christian courtesy and love which has characterized it during a considerable period in its past history. It has much to rejoice over at present. Very few churches in agricultural towns have

more young people among them than we. I see no reason to despond over the future history of this church, if she only keeps herself "unspotted from the world;" if she only develops in righteousness and true holiness, and labors for the good of those among whom God has placed her, this generation and generations to come shall call her blessed.

REV. HENRY S. KIMBALL,

of Dayville, Conn., said:

I am always glad to meet the people of Boylston and particularly so to greet them on this anniversary occasion.

In this town I had my happiest pastorate. It will be remembered as a bright section of my life. I expect no brighter one during my ministry. But while others refer to the past I wish to speak of the future. I desire to make a plea for these citizens. Those who have remained in the town have sustained its honor so highly that we are proud to return to-day. They have carried forward the educational and religious work remarkably well. Now I wish to ask you who have gone forth from this town to assist these worthy residents who remain. They need a chapel; the basement of the church is not a suitable place in which to hold religious services. Health and life are endangered by attendance there. There is also imperative need of a library building; they have an excellent collection of books but no room in which to keep them.

I appeal to the sons and daughters of Boylston to give these needed buildings to their native town. Certainly there can be no better investment, no more enduring monument to your memory. While we gather here to-day I seem to see another company. Looking down upon us I behold Sanford, Bigelow, Flagg, Partridge, Bush, Moore, Andrews, and among them stands that beloved man who recently went home, John B. Gough. Let us remember his last words, *make our records clean*, and meet those who have gone before in that better world.

The toast-master referred to the fact that two of Boylston's pastors, whose united term of service covered a period of more than fifty years, were both prominently connected with the edu-

cational and social interests of the town as well as the church, and both represented it in the General Court, and offered the following toast:

*To the memory of Rev. Ward Cotton, A. M., minister of the town from* 1797 *to* 1825, *an honored representative of one of the most illustrious lines of the ministry in New England. His efforts for the spirtual and temporal interests of the town will ever be remembered with respect and veneration.*

REV. DANIEL S. WHITNEY,

of Southborough, a former resident of the town, and a son-in law fo Rev. Mr. Cotton, replied as follows.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—To do anything like justice to my theme requires more time than the occasion can furnish. It is meet, however, that something should be said, however inadequate. Mr. Cotton's ministry not only extended over more than one-quarter of the life of the town, but it came in that part of its life when it was needful for both ministers and people to struggle against great hardships. Worthless paper currency, the embargo and Madison's war were to those who encountered them no small hardship. With molasses at $1.80 per gallon, and other things in proportion, it must have been a time to try men's stomachs if not their souls. The ministers' houses, in those days, were the taverns for all traveling ministers, and not infrequently others would claim their hospitality who had no right above tramps to be taken care of without charge. Mr. Cotton's hospitality was of the broadest type. Whether with single or double team, whoever came, were supplied with the best that the house and barn afforded. No unfortunate was ever sent away hungry. He eked out his small income by fitting boys for college and teaching others in his own house, and thus greatly improved the standard of education in the town. Books were scarce, and he induced some friends to join him in starting a library which became very serviceable to old and young. Mr. Cotton brought to the town not only the culture of the best institution of learning, but also the manners and graces of his Ply-

mouth home. The self-denial to which his young bride submitted without a murmur, may be seen from the fact that she was so struck, on her first appearance at church, with the contrast between the costumes of the women of the town and her own rich dress that she never again wore it. At her Plymouth home it was proper, but not among the people to whom she had come to be a helpmeet for the young minister. The gay silks lay quietly in drawers till her girls were old enough to wear silk, then they took a darker color and were made useful. Mr. Cotton's ministry, from its beginning to its ending, was one of eminent self-denial and self-forgetfulness. The highest interests of the people who had called him to be their spiritual guide were ever in his thought. He retused to listen for a moment to a committee from a much larger town who came to see if he would answer favorably a call to be their minister. When urged by a sister to seek the new field he made this characteristic reply: "It is a poor soldier that deserts in time of battle," and so he continued on to the end. He was always on excellent terms with the young people, and used his influence to direct their amusements and lead them into reasonable channels. The heats and jars among men he ever strove to mitigate and assuage. He seemed to realize the greatness of the blessing pronounced upon the peacemakers. The majority of the people were strongly attached to him. This was clearly seen after he ceased to be their minister by their making him, from year to year, their representative in the Legislature till failing health dismissed him entirely from public service. Mr. Cotton and his wife had born unto them six children—four girls and two boys. The second child, a beautiful, healthy little girl, Mary, went to her heavenly home when but seventeen days old through the carelessness of a nurse. The other five lived to mature years, mutually blessing and being blest. The family circle was first broken by the marriage of Lydia Jackson, the eldest of the girls, to Mr. Josiah Pope, of Sterling. Three years later she passed to her spiritual home leaving an infant daughter to manifest in after years something of the beauty of person and character for which her mother was so remarkable.

Ward Mather, the younger of the boys, learned the machin-

ist business, married Miss Elizabeth Miller Lamson, of Boylston, settled in Leominster and was long known as Deacon Cotton, Secretary of the Northern Worcester Temperance Society. He died about ten years since, leaving three sons and a daughter, Sally May married Rev. Charles Robinson, of Medfield, where she was called hence five years later, leaving an infant son. A dearly loved and greatly mourned little daughter preceded her to the better country. Hannah Sophia Phillips married Daniel S. Whitney, has resided in Southborough for more than thirty years, is the only one of the family now living on earth; and is here with two of her grandsons, John Cotton Billings and Carlyle Whitney Billings to enjoy this celebration. John Thomas, the oldest of the children, was never married, but lived with his parents at the old homestead while they lived. He was town clerk for many years and represented the town in the General Court. He was greatly attached to his mother, and when her failing health reqnired all his time and strength, he cheerfully relinquished all public employments and devoted himself entirely to her comfort till she passed on to other mansions. After his mother's departure he sold the old homestead, bought a small place in Southborough, near his sister's residence, and lived there in good fellowship with his neighbors till his failing health induced him to seek a home with her, where he gradually failed to the end, being in the eighty-fourth year of his age when called away. He left us about two years since, and rests by the side of his parents and sisters in the old cemetery here in Boylston.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: These services have been so much confined to a looking back and dwelling upon the heroic deeds of the fathers, that I cannot forbear to cast one glance to the future. There are great acts of justice, heroic deeds yet to be done before the world comes to the top of its possibilities. Chattel slavery is no more, but the slaves of strong drink still menace our beloved country. Is this great Republic to die, as Starr King declared that Greece died, of delirium tremens? What force can we call to our aid agaiust this terrible foe of the human race? *The good women of the land!* We must confer municipal suffrage upon them, and then we can cope with this powerful foe. The sooner we do this act of simple justice the better.

*To the memory of Rev. William H. Sanford, minister of the church in Boylston, from* 1832 *to* 1857, *an honored exemplar of the Christian religion; a faithful worker for the moral and educational interests of the town. May his memory ever be cherished by this people.*

This was responded to by

MR. GEORGE L. SANFORD,

of Worcester, a son of the late Rev. William H. Sanford.

I thank you for the call to respond to a sentiment which is intended as a tribute of respect to my late honored father. In a double sense I feel it to be an honor to have been selected by you to voice what you have given us in time past abundant reason to know is your genuine respect and affection for the subject of this sentiment. And I feel it an honor to speak for my father on this occasion, such I know to have been his earnest life, his long cherished affection for Boylston and her people. He came among you in his early manhood fresh from his studies, to embark here in a career to which he had turned aside from more ambitious worldly life plans at the call of the Master. He was one of the fruits of the great revivals about the period of 1831–2, and the light that shone in upon him then those of you who were in the Christian fold to which he ministered know to have been the guiding star of his life. Others who are older in years among this audience to-day, remember him as the Boylston pastor in this his only pastorate which, when it had been extended to a period longer far than the average of ministerial engagements in these days, he laid down and took no other. The only pastoral memories he ever had held fast to Boylston, to her homes, to the elders like him ripening for the other world; to the men and women, now heads of families, who had received baptism in infancy at his hands. It will always be a treasured memory with us of his household, the occasion of the visit paid to him by the people in honor of his seventy-fifth birthday in 1875. I have never known a more touching proof of genuine affection between pastor and people than this which then reached over a lapse of nearly

twenty years, to recognize and honor this tie. He never became a stranger here. He was frequently with you. The strong ties he formed here were never replaced while living in our adjacent city. He retained to the last his interest in your homes and your life here. I am glad to remember, on this occasion, my own share of benefit and happiness in my early home among you. Since my later life has been cast with no rural surroundings, it will always be a satisfaction to me to recall the house embowered in orchards and hung round with vines that was the parsonage, my Boylston home. My father, while he clung to his bookish and classic ties, was, as you will remember, skillful in all the arts of horticulture, and like many of the clergymen in the older day, not so itinerant then as now, led and inspired even farmer neighbors to a better husbandry especially in the house field that plants the fruit tree and waters the vine, and takes pride in the kitchen garden. In all this my father, you will remember, was zealous and what he made of his estate, with its other home features, was vividly described by Rev. Theodore Cuyler in his widely copied sketch, in the *New York Observer*, about the year 1856, "*The Model Parsonage.*" I thank you in behalf of our family for your kind remembrance of my father. I must not longer trespass on your time and the place of those who are to follow me.

*To the memory of Aaron White, Esq., for forty-nine years a resident of Boylston, for twenty-four years its town clerk, and for many years a magistrate; ever zealous for the highest welfare of the community; the father of a family whose record has been an honor to the town.*

Response by SAMUEL C. WHITE, ESQ., of New Jersey.

Aaron White, whose life and services in this town are here commemorated, was the eldest son of Aaron and Elizabeth White, and was born in Roxbury, now called Boston Highlands, June 9, 1771. His death occurred in this town on the 7th of April, 1846, two months and two days under seventy-five years of age.

He was in the fifth line of descendants from John White, who came from England between 1630 and 1640, first settled at Watertown, and a few years later removed to Muddy River, or Boston Farms, as Brookline was formerly called. In this town of Brookline, the father, Aaron White senior, was born, and all his ancestry of the name of White back to the first comer, John White, lived and died.

The education of Aaron White, Jr., was such as the common schools of the town of Roxbury afforded one hundred years ago, but being near the Boston line he had access to the old Boston Public Library, an institution which still exists with its means of disseminating knowledge vastly enlarged.

With the aid of books from this library he had an opportunity for indulging his fondness for reading, and his mind was well stored with English history and English literature. When under twenty-one he was for several years employed in daily attendance on Boston market to dispose of the produce of his father's place, mostly devoted to the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. At twenty-one, 1792, he opened a store in the easterly part of the town of Holden.

About five years afterwards, or in 1797, he closed up his business in Holden and removed to Boylston, purchasing the old store, tavern stand and farm then owned by Col. Jotham Bush, on the Worcester road, opposite the old cemetery. Here the store and farm occupied his attention until the autumn of 1821, when he removed to the place formerly owned by Capt. Jason Abbot.

Having made an addition to the dwelling house and repaired the main building and erected a new store a short distance to the eastward, he continued the business of a country merchant until a few years before his decease in 1846. Much of his time was occupied in the management of town offices, as town clerk, selectman, and for several years a member of the legislature of the State. Before leaving Holden he became engaged to Mary, eldest daughter of Rev. Joseph Avery, minister of that town, and they were married on the first day of January, 1798, and commenced housekeeping at the place purchased of Col. Bush. They lived to see their family of seven sons and three daughters

grow up and become settled in life, the youngest daughter remaining at home the comfort and stay of her parents in their declining years. The mother was remarkable for the most persevering and indefatigable devotion to what she conceived to be her duty to her family, to the church, and to society in general. The faith and hope and Christian confidence never faltered in all her pathway through life. She died May 26, 1860, in the eighty-second year of her age.

*To the memory of Dr. John Andrews, forty years the physician of the town; a useful and influential citizen. We honor and respect his memory.*

JOHN D. ANDREWS, ESQ.,

of Boston, a son of Dr. Andrews, responded as follows:

*The Andrews Family*:—One hundred years ago, who were they, and from whom did they descend?

One thousand and more years ago Hugh De Sutton, then later Des Sutton became the Baron Dudley; then later the Baron Dudley became the Gov. Dudley of the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

The daughter of Gov. Dudley, *Ann*, the poetess, married Gov. Simon Bradstreet, (also a governor of Massachusetts.)

The grand-daughter of Simon and Ann, one Lucy, daughter of Simon Bradstreet of Topsfield, Mass., was married to *Robert Andrews*, of Boylston, Mass., about 1746, and their children were the Andrews family of Boylston, one hundred years ago:—their names were Robert, Samuel, Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Lucy, Asa and Jotham, each of whom had families.

The children of John were Mary Parker, Willard, Lucy Bradstreet, John, Robert and Thomas Denny.

The children of Asa were Elizabeth Ann, John Dudley, Edward, Theodore and Charlotte.

The children of Daniel were Mary, Sarah, Asaph, Edmund, Eunice and Daniel.

The children of Samuel were Lucy Ann, Elizabeth, Judith, Samuel and Mary Morse.

The children of Robert were Jotham, Robert, Dolly, Asa, Dudley, Dennis and John.

John the youngest son of Robert lives in the remembrance of most of you, going in and out of your houses as the only doctor in this town for nearly half of these hundred years, doing faithfully and well the laborious duties of his profession, and cheerfully bearing his share of the burdens of town and parish; a good representative of a family who have contributed much, first and last to the general good and welfare of the town they loved, and where so many of them have lived and died, and whose record, if not brilliant, is yet without a stain, and whose memory as honest, sober and law-abiding citizens, the inhabitants of the good old town may well cherish, and the rising generation emulate.

*Our aged fellow citizens who have witnessed the history and growth of the town throughout nearly the whole of the first century of its existence; venerable men and women, may your last days be your best, and may you long be spared to enjoy the respect and esteem of your townsmen.*

RESPONSE BY THE BAND.

*The towns of Lancaster and Shrewsbury; the honored parents and guardians of Boylston in her infancy; to their early fostering care the daughter owes much of her growth and prosperity.*

Responses: Rev. A. P. Marvin, for Lancaster; George H. Harlow Esq., for Shrewsbury.

RESPONSE OF REV. A. P. MARVIN.

*Mr. President:* — The sentiment just read in reference to Lancaster, the mother of towns, is fitting and well expressed. The oldest town in the county, and one of the oldest in the State, having been begun about thirteen years after the settlement of Boston, and having been endowed with an ample territory, it was natural that her vast acreage should be cut up into other towns as the years passed over her. And so it has come to pass that eight towns, besides her own goodly proportions, are the results. Five of these towns—Harvard, Leominster, Bolton, Ster-

ling and Berlin, are children, and the two Boylstons and Clinton are grand-children of this prolific mother. She responds kindly to your reverent greeting, and I am happy to be called upon to say a few words in her behalf. The good old town is rather proud of her family, and loves to be greeted as the mother of them all.

But, truth to say, she has no great claim to your filial gratitude and honor. Only a fraction of your territory was ever in her domain. Very few settlers inhabited this section for nearly a century after Prescott, Ball and Waters began to lift axes against the big trees in the Nashua valley. Still, there was Lancaster blood here in your early settlement, and it continues here to this day. Sawyer, Bigelow, and other names, tell of Lancaster birth and breeding. But, on the whole, the old town must be modest in her claims upon Boylston for filial respect. You are only a partial reproduction of herself. You have drawn your population from other towns in larger proportion. Your inheritance from her is somewhat like that of a noted divine who was visited by the gout. The question was whence it came. "Did your father imbibe too much?" "No." "Was your grandfather a wine-bibber?" No." "Well, then, how came you by the infliction?" Oh, I inherited it from my wife's father," was the reply. Therefore, if you are blessed by many good things, by way of heredity, give Lancaster her share of credit; if anything not good has come to you, lay the blame on some other ancestry.

I am glad to say to you that the good old town is holding on her way, unwrinkled, and with undecaying vigor. While many other joining towns are decreasing in population, the last census showed an increase in numbers notwithstanding a decrease of inmates in the State Industrial School. Our farms are improving, our roads are unsurpassed, our schools are among the best in the county, our beautiful scenery as the Creator made it, only improved by cultivation. Like the original Eden, it is the duty of the inhabitants to till and dress it. More than all, the ancient town is "booming" now, to use a coinage of the times. Houses are full, several buildings are now going up, and another is to be erected this season, which will not be inferior to the best in the county of Worcester when finished. I know you

will be glad of the prosperity of the mature but still young and vigorous mother town, as she will always be in sympathy with all your improvements.

Leaving this line of remark, called out by the toast, I wish to express my pleasure in being able to attend this anniversary meeting. I can recall no occasion of the kind which so completely realizes my ideal of a Centennial Celebration of a New England town. I was delighted when, on first coming this morning, I looked off upon the scenery that greets and charms the eye in various directions,—but chiefly as you look westward over the Nashua valley, the intervening woods and waters,—and finally rested on the magnificent dome of the county—Wachusett. Not less pleasing, in another way, was the immediate scene around us. The throngs of people, the procession of happy children, the campus with all its moving sights as well as its encompassing buildings; the decorations, the flags, and mottoes, and trees laden with fruit, the tents and the town hall crowded with its antique heir-looms; the old powder-house, brimful, if not of powder, yet of associations of the times which tried men's souls; all these sights enchained my attention, and as the hours have sped, my interest has increased. To me the side-shows with their penny-getting greed, and the auctions with their extravagant rhetoric about pills and powders, and the cure-alls, have a characteristic flavor. Then I took special pleasure in seeing the horses, and the big guns, and the evolutions. There, I said to myself, in the last resort, is the concentrated might that secures rights under law, puts down rebellion and drives foreign enemies from our shores. And here, in this vast tent, with its throng of sons and daughters of the town, with its exercises of music, reading of the Word of God, poetry and oration, we have the culmination of the noblest civilization that has yet blessed the earth. In the crowd without I have neither seen nor heard any. thing to mar the happiness of the occasion; and this blending of country and city in the gathering, wherein you cannot discern the line of meeting; this country flavor with city culture, so gently melting into each other that nothing occurs to check the full tide of friendship and sympathy, is delightful to see. The whole will have an abiding place in my memory as it will in yours.

But, Mr. President, the only thought I had to express when I came here was, if called upon to say anything, this, that the old-time people who came and settled here in the unbroken woods that filled this region, were a happy set. It is the fashion to pity them as an unhappy generation, with their privations and want of amusements and rusticity. But they need not our commiseration, and ask it not.

True, they had hard times cutting down the forests, breaking the sod, living in log houses, making roads; in this there was hard work. Nor was the task of their wives less trying than that of their husbands. Then there were wild beasts, such as foxes, woodchucks, and other nuisances of the sort, besides beasts of prey, as wild-cats wolves and bears. The all-devouring birds made havoc of their crops. Clouds of them shadowed the sun and made the woods ring with their songs or their croakings; and when they fell upon field or garden, the hopes of men were devoured. Nor is this all. Did you ever think what an omnipresent curse were the snakes in those days? Serpents of all kinds, and in all places, infested their land and crawled into their houses. Many of the towns around us had their "rattlesnake hill." The journals of the officers in the old wars, from 1676 to 1763 have frequent mention of snakes which were killed in their scoutings. Indeed, they endured hard times in their inclement winters; but, after all, they were the happiest people in the world. This is not the language of extravagance. Your orator of the day has spoken well to this point. It was an aged minister's wife, in Winchendon, who said of the early settlers of that town, "They were as poor as poverty but merry as grigs."

But they had the true foundation of happiness. You are aware, sir, that people who are always contriving how to be happy, only betray their unhappiness. Good morals, industry, frugality, honesty, neighborly kindness, fidelity to marriage vows, public spirit, and the fear of God, were the sources of their happiness. They had pleasant gatherings and innocent hilarity, and an outflow of love to family and kin, and kind, which enriched their minds. They had schools and books, excellent though few; and above all the meeting-house with pious and scholarly pastors, which brought them knowledge, quickening thought, and incite-

ments to honorable living, and taught them that they were immortal souls. In a word, they had a religion that enlightened their minds, sweetened their affections, bound them together in kindly neighborhood, and showed them the way to heaven. As you inherit the fruits of their labors, so cherish their virtues as you honor their memory.

*The town of West Boylston; the only daughter; her growth, industry and prosperity have done honor to her parentage.*

Response by Rev. Joseph W. Cross, of West Boylston.

*Mr. President:*—It must be very gratifying to this only daughter to receive so flattering a compliment from the lips of this venerable mother, on her one hundreth birth-day. It indicates not only entire reconciliation, but just appreciation and respect, as well as maternal affection.

It has been my pleasure to sustain an intimate relation to this only daughter for nearly fifty years, and I can truly say this compliment is as fairly merited as it has been kindly bestowed. During my long and intimate acquaintance with both mother and daughter, I believe their relation to each other has ever been mostcordial, and their intercourse most friendly.

If I am correctly informed, this was not always the case. In their earlier history there was some sharp contention, and much temporary alienation. When this daughter was about twenty-two years of age, she became somewhat self-willed and ungovernable; the mother regarded her, if I may use a scriptural phrase, as "heady, high-minded." The fact was, she began to feel her own importance; began to be impatient of maternal restraint, and, if the truth must be told, she coquetted with a major. In spite of maternal council and restraint, she became infatuated and fairly bewitched with him; or he with her. I believe it was a mutual affair; until the major by pluck and perseverence, finally snapped the apron string and led her away.

But just here, I wish to say what I now believe to be admitted on all sides, that this major was a very worthy, honorable man;

held in the highest estimation throughout all the community; distinguished both in civil and military life; a very patriotic and noble-hearted citizen; the successful suitor of the daughter, and the honored father of the town; so highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, that it was seriously proposed at one time to change the name of the town to Beaman, a proposition which it is to be regretted, was not carried into immediate effect.

But, Mr. President, I do not wish to occupy too much time on this occasion, nor to anticipate what may be better said by those who may come after me, and I will therefore leave it to them to speak more particularly of the growth and prosperity of West Boylston; and close my remarks with a brief allusion to one of your own beloved pastors; Rev. William H. Sanford, with whom I was three years in Harvard College, and subsequently enjoyed a very pleasant ministerial intercourse of nearly twenty years. His class, that of 1827, was distinguished for talent. having furnished the presidents of two colleges, Dr. Felton, of Harvard, and Rev. Dr. Stearns, of Amherst. The late Rev. Dr. Sweetser, of Worcester, and Rev. Mr. Rogers, of the Winter Street Church of Boston, were members of that class.

It was also distinguished for its curious combination of names. They did not all graduate, but their names were all in the college catalogue at one time; I think it was in the sophomore year. I do not recall them all, but I remember the following: Brooks and Wells, Miles and Inches, Toy and Paint, Potts and Kettle. There was a student from the South, by the name of Hamilton Potts, and Rev. Mr. Rogers name in college, was Samuel Mattrick Ellan Kettle. Thus you will perceive, the class was well provided with both cabinet and kitchen furniture.

In announcing the next toast, the toast-master said: We cannot pass by the town of West Boylston, without offering some tribute of regard to the memory of one who in the days of the Revolution, was one of the most active and patriotic citizens of the Shrewsbury North Parish, who was influential in the incorporation of the town of Boylston, and twenty-two years later the principal petitioner for the incorporation of West Boylston. A man who lived in three different towns, and yet never changed his place of residence.

*To the memory of Major Ezra Beaman, the chairman of the first Board of Selectmen of Boylston and West Boylston, and the first representative to the General Court from both towns; a brave patriot, a conscientious man, and a useful citizen, may his memory endure so long as both towns shall exist.*

Responded to by GEORGE M. LOURIE, ESQ., of West Boylston.

*The town of Sterling; the ancient Chocksett; the dwelling place of Sholan and the Nashaway; we are glad to greet her citizens and renew formalities upon this Centennial Day.*

Response by ARTHUR P. RUGG, ESQ., of Sterling.

*Mr. Toast-master, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—Boylston and Sterling are the two daughters of mother Lancaster, most nearly allied to each other in size, position and age. With an interval of only five years between their births, and separated by a far longer period from any of their sisters, they have kept step through their history in the tastes and occupation of their inhabitants, and in their general characteristics as towns.

In neither have great manufacturing interests centered; in Boylston not enough to change it from an agricultural community; while in Sterling the few which once existed have almost entirely died out. The value of her annual manufactures half a century ago exceeded by many thousand of dollars, the present product. Consequently there has been little or no increase in population; indeed Sterling numbers less now than when she first took her place among the towns in the county. The list of tax-payers and voters changes not materially from year to year. Many of the names foremost when our town was incorporated, still appear prominently among our citizens.

When with these facts in mind, one looks over the beautifully diversified landscape of forest and field, hill and vale of these sister towns, quiet farm-houses nestling here and there, but no noisy factories or bustling villages to break the silence, with almost literal truth might be applied the lines of Gray:

"Far from the madding crowds' ignoble strife
Their sober wishes never learned to stray:
Along the cool, sequestered vale of life
They kept the even tenor of their way."

But is this want of material progress all together a cause of regret? It needs only such a celebration as this to answer us, No. This ingathering of so many honorably eminent sons of the ancient mother town, teach that her chief and most enduring glory is not the number of her population, nor the aggregate of her valuation, but rather in the quality of the sons and daughters she has produced. The brighest jewels of her centennial coronet, are not the gold and silver gathered within her borders, but the men and women who come back to honor her as their first home.

History and observation show that among those who have climbed the highest in business or in the professions, have been those who received their early training in country towns. The strength of character, and habits of economy, and shrewdness, instilled into their being in youth, were the elements which insured them success wherever they might go. If I mistake not, Sterling has given at least one to each of the professions whom the country could have ill afforded to be without.

A son of our first minister, Prentice Meller, was the first, and for many years the Chief-Justice of Maine, and one of the soundest lawyers who have helped to make her jurisprudence respected.

The next generation gave to the Unitarian pulpit in the person of Dr. George Putnam, one whose silver-tongued eloquence and profound thought did much to render Boston the purest, as well as the most cultured of our great cities.

And many whose blindness has been turned in vision, and whose ears have been unstopped, will pour down blessings on the head of the youngest of our eminent sons, and who is privileged to be here to-day—Dr. William Holcombe, of New York.

Besides these a far larger number have gone forth from our borders to share in the business and in the prosperity of larger towns and cities. No doubt Boylston can at least furnish a counterpart to this list from among her own sons. This is why

they do not increase in population; they generously give to the cities a goodly proportion of each generation, retaining only enough to keep the stock of the old town good.

No, the nation cannot afford to do without these staid old country towns, and the strong men whom they furnished her. And it is safe to say that the need for the characteristics which the country boys of generations gone by, have supplied to the business and professional life of the state, is as great now as before.

The five years of Sterling's second century which have already elapsed, show that she appreciates in some degree the duties of country towns, for she has established a high school and appropriated liberally for its support, and in the past six years has graduated four of her sons from college.

In presenting on this occasion the heartiest congratulations of the elder to the younger sister, on the completion of so successful and honorable an hundred years of corporate life, I can think of no better sentiment in which to embody them than this:—Boylston and Sterling, may they live through their second and succeeding centuries in the sisterly emulation of giving the state and country the truest examples of American manhood.

*The Town of Clinton, the youngest daughter of old Lancaster, her teeming industries, led by millions of flying spindles, have enabled her to far outstrip the mother towns and all the family circle in population, wealth and resources.*

RESPONSE BY C. C. COOK, ESQ.,

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Clinton.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen;*—In rising to respond to this toast, so complimentary to the town of Clinton, I am mindful of the fact that gentlemen from Clinton are seated at this table, whose eloquence far transends any language at my command; still, owing to the position I have the honor to hold temporarily, a few words of congratulation may not be out of place. And, in behalf of the citizens of Clinton, I do congratu-

late you that you have reached your one hundredth birthday under such favorable circumstances. The day itself, with its cloudless sunshine, seems to bespeak another century of peace and prosperity for the good old town of Boylston.

You have been pleased to call Clinton "the youngest daughter of old Lancaster," and yet Clinton is thirty-six years of age. This may, or may not be considered a compliment as the opposite sex, you know, are somewhat timid in this particular, certainly, after having reached the age of twenty-five years. When you say, however, "Her teeming industries, led by millions of flying spindles, have enabled her to outstrip the mother town, and all the family circle, in population, wealth and resources," we hide our blushes and thank you heartily for such a wholesale compliment, and yet are not such the facts?

From the few small factories, thirty-six years ago, scattered along our streams, we now point with pride to several of the largest industries of their kind in the country, one of which is taxed this year for nearly one and a quarter millions of dollars.

The history of this marvelous growth cannot be given in a brief after-dinner speech. The chief reason, however, for this wonderful and continued prosperity lies in the fact that from the date of her incorporation until this very day, our capitalists, merchants, manufacturers, and citizens generally have taken as much interest in the welfare of the town as in their own, consequently Clinton, to-day, enjoys nearly all the advantages and conveniences of a modern city. The present year more money will be expended in enlarging factories, building new, and erecting private residences, than has been expended in any one year since the incorporation of the town.

And sir, does not the prosperity of Clinton mean also the prosperity of Boylston? Those of us in middle life remember the old covered market wagon that wended its toilsome way "on the road to Boston." Now you have a market at your very doors. May the mutual good fellowship now existing between Boylston and Clinton long continue, and allow me to improve this opportunity to invite you one and all to the centennial celebration of Clinton in the year 1950. May you all live to see that day.

*The town of Berlin. Another descendant of old Lancaster. Like Boylston, her growth has been slow and vigorous. If her garments were not fashioned, her pattern, at least as a town, was partly formed by a Boylston Taylor. We are glad to return the interchange of Centennial greetings upon this day. To the town of Berlin and the memory of David Taylor.*

Responded to by Rev. William A. Houghton, of Berlin.

*Mr. President:*—I respond sympathetically to the expressed relationship of my native town to yours, though somewhat puzzled as to our consanguinity, by your one-fourth descent from Berlin's good grandmother. Evidently Boylston is thus a quadroon. But we stand by our kin anyway.

Berlin has kept its best side towards Boylston. That is, one of them. We have several,—our inside is best. Boylstonward stood John Hudson, sentinel of Bull Hill, father of Hon. Charles Hudson, and an original member of our church. Next on line stood the Barneses, a name of noble record, and perpetuated in Barnes Hill. To our loss you enticed some of them over the line,—David Barnes, John Barnes, and others, stand largely in our reading for Boylston. But when, as Shrewsbury, "N. P.," you courted Phillip Larkin and Larkindale, your suit failed. Joshua Houghton, my kinsman far back (on the present Israel Barnes place), and Daniel Albert and his son Frederick, near the present fine residence of Henry C. Hastings, sought to push your northern boundary a mile and a half into Lancaster, Phillip appealed and you were compelled to jump his farm which was kept in Lancaster till our organization. True, you were kind enough to send us a very good *Taylor* to help put us "in fashion" as a town. Your record of our David, as a workman in Boylston, is very commendable—Town Clerk, Selectman, Assessor, Parish Clerk, etc. He was our first Precinct Clerk; also, was original member of the church. He died, 1794, his widow in 1806. They settled, with their daughter Esther and son-in-law, Deacon Job Spofford, on the Assabet, and, I think, on the territory which the Taylor's (of Marlborough then), left when they emigrated to Shrewsbury sixty years before. David Taylor

was a mighty man of valor. Towns were proud of such in those days. In one of the "borough towns" the minister was champion; a teamster, at the public inn, defied the whole borough; the evening wore on and he was victor. The parson was sent for; the call stirred his prowess, and coming in, he said: "Who is this Goliath that defies our army?" Goliath came forth only to be laid on the floor. Our David was champion in lifting. In the Navy Yard, one day, the marines tauntingly defied the countryman to "end-up" one of the cannon. He did so, and to the amazement of the lookers-on, threw the lower end of it over his shoulder, in which tremendous exertion he burst open a new pair of cow-hide shoes. Our traditions *never surrender* on the feat, the fact, nor the shoes. We have *natives* who, before, in athletic strains, had burst *indispensable attire*, but we surrender to Boylston town on king David.

Personally I just missed of Taylor blood in my own muscle. My grandfather, in second marriage, took Mary Taylor, of Boylston. She called her only son Jonah in honor of the prophet, I always supposed. Her son's son she named Jonah Taylor, which name the naughty boy rejected when he grew up. But he knew not the history of his own name. Ward's Shrewsbury gives Jonah Taylor, son of William Taylor, born on the place of the late Amasa Howe, killed in the capture of Louisburg 1745, aged 28 years. So Mary Taylor commemorated the Shrewsbury patriot in Berlin, seventy-five years later, in the name of Jonah Taylor Houghton. Remember, friends, what your names mean.

I have noticed, Mr. President, that we are called "the little towns." Of right we should have been the big ones. Our Central Massachusetts Railroad lies on the direct line from Boston to Albany. Before the Boston and Albany Railroad was thought of, Loammi Baldwin, of Woburn, discoverer of the Baldwin apple on his own farm, civil engineer, built a little observatory in one of those ever sightly elms on Watoquadock Hill in Bolton, to take the depressions and elevations of the surrounding region with reference to a canal (a la Erie) from Albany to Boston. Berlin, West Berlin and Sawyer's Mills gave in our tonnage in 1825 on that idea. The Boston and Albany should have been on that line, but Worcester, like Cæsar, was ambitious. They

stole our march, as they did the County seat from Lancaster. They got a canal too, while we were talking about one. I saw in the *Massachusetts Spy*, one day, heavy head lines, "*Port of Worcester*," arrivals, so and so. One holiday I went on foot six miles to see the Worcester and Providence craft come into "Port." We returned in the mood of the inland party who, in the time of "Madison's War," made a trip to Boston to see the embargo on the harbor. I saw no steamboat, nor any other boat or craft, but Worcester was there in her ever-winning attitude, and ever since she built the great thoroughfare from the "Joe Bill road" to the Curtis farm (Adams Square), four rods wide, "all roads" in Worcester county "lead to Rome." That road was built for Boylston and the "regions beyond" to come to Worcester, not for Worcester to go thither, Did you ever come to any "cross roads" in Worcester county woods where the guideboard did not direct you to that winsome and receptive city?

Well, the small towns have their uses. What would Worcester have been but for Boylston? You may well take on some airs to-day, as you do. "The Heart of the Commonwealth" is waiting at your doors for more Mayors still, and I see several young men in the committees of to-day who will soon be ready. But I am thinking, Mr. President, of your noble mother, your seventy-five per cent. mother, dear old Shrewsbury. She forgot her birthday, and now she must wait. But you will have a good time when she invites you all home in 1927. Berlin had an occasion like yours, in kind, two years ago. Our good mother, Bolton, too, overslept her birthday. She will report on her one hundred and fiftieth two years hence. Ambitious Clinton can hardly wait to "tell the story of her birth." West Boylston has only twenty years to wait.

A recent history is entitled "The People of the United States." In working up a "Centennial Memorial" of Berlin families, I have traversed this whole region when Lancaster was frontier. No Westborough, no Northborough, no Shrewsbury, no Worcester, nor aught from Marlborough to Brookfield and Springfield. I am not more amazed at the steamboat, the iron horse, the telegraph, than I am at what the fathers, by toil, endurance, patriotism and faith, wrought upon these forests in the

planting of towns. But we are distressed at the scantiness of records. More than to all others are we indebted to the old "halfway covenant," in the baptism of children, for the origin of families. Over seven hundred names thus recorded in the first half century of Berlin, my native town. I shall always hold to infant baptism.

Personally, I would like to speak of many Boylston families. The ministry has been happily considered. My Brother Sanford was too modest for a man of his abilities. He was a classical scholar. Harvard college committed to him her students and gave him the authority of the Faculty. My Brother Bigelow, also gone, honored his town and calling. As a personal friend none knew him but to cherish his company and counsel. His benevolence made many hearts glad; and who, that has known, shall ever forget the world's most eloquent orator—John B. Gough, of Boylston?

*Worcester, the Heart of the Commonwealth, the town of Boylston greets her citizens upon this Centennial Day. May the associations of the occasion unite the two places in closer bonds of good-will and friendship.*

In reading this toast the toast-master referred to the fact that scarcely any other town had furnished so many prominent citizens to the City of Worcester as Boylston. She includes among the list two ex-Mayors in the persons of the President and Marshal of this day; Aldermen and members of the Common Council, members of the School Board, of the Overseers of the Poor, a Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, a City Marshal, and a City Engineer. With all this array of men who have honored the town of their birth, and the city of their adoption, we feel that Boylston has a perfect right to ask Worcester men to assist in this days services.

RESPONSE BY HON. CHARLES B. PRATT,

ex-Mayor of Worcester, and Chief Marshal of the day.

*Mr. President:*—I am doubly honored here to-day, and especially do I feel the honor in being called upon to respond for the city of Worcester. We of that city are proud of everything that she contains; proud of her institutions of learning and of charity; proud of her enterprise and her wealth; proud of her municipal government and the management of all her departments; and particularly proud in being the center and metropolis of the grand old towns in the central county of the State. We feel that we are the focus from which emanates all the wisdom and goodness that dominates and controls the outside world. I notice that Worcester people who go abroad never see anything nor learn anything during their absence, but always return with the unchanged conviction that Worcester is the greatest, the best, and the most beautiful city on the face of the earth.

But, Mr. President, whatever qualities Worcester may possess to-day, we must remember that for those qualities she is indebted largely to the intelligence and character of the people by whom she has been surrounded. They have contributed the elements that have made her what she is, and from them she has drawn the most valuable constituents of her being. In the midst of a community like this, and subject to such influences, how could she fail of becoming what she has become—the model city of the Commonwealth.

One gentleman has said this afternoon, that the sign-boards in the county only proclaim the fact that all roads lead to Worcester. We in the city know that any road out of it is sure to lead us into some old town like this, where peace and quiet has been unbroken for a century, and where we may come with tired brain and overworked body for rest and refreshment. I have said that we are proud of our enterprise, but there are times in the midst of the whirl of business and advance, and ever-changing improvement in the city, that a feeling of regret comes that the old land-marks have been removed, and that our familiar spots have become strange places. It is not so here. Boylston is to-day what she was when I first knew her, and it is a comfort and a consolation to those who have gone out into the busy world, to know that they can find the place of their childhood unchanged, and the home of their early days undisturbed.

I am gratified that I have been able to take part in these proceedings to-day, in celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of our town. May the happiness and prosperity with which she has been blessed in the past, continue with her in the future.

*For nearly forty years this town was the residence of one of the most eloquent orators, most earnest workers and ablest advocates for temperance and humanity which the world has ever produced—John B. Gough. We venerate his memory and shall keep in lasting remembrance his associations with this town. May his dying words ever be an incentive to the youth of this community to urge them forward in the paths of truth and virtue.*

RESPONSE—DIRGE BY THE BAND.

*To the memory of Ward Nicholas Boylston, the founder and benefactor of the town.*

In response to this toast the following communication was read:

PROVIDENCE, August 16, 1886.

The family of the late Ward Nicholas Boylston regret that they can only express their gratitude to the town of Boylston for the kind remembrance of their ancestor, and their good wishes for the prosperity of the town.

For the family,

C. W. PARSONS.

The following sentiment from Thomas White, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y., was received too late for announcement at the celebration:

*The Town Meeting—the germ of our republican institutions—first organized for the government of the town of Boylston by its inhabitants one hundred years ago; a government*

*based on the piety, patriotism, and educated intelligence of the people, the maintenance of those ancestral virtues, the surest guaranty of the prosperity of the town for one hundred years to come.*

At five o'clock, the toast-master called for a vote of thanks to Hon. Phinehas Ball, the President of the Day, and Hon. Charles B. Pratt, the Chief Marshal, which was cordially responded to. The President then declared the festivities at an end.

# NOTES OF THE DAY.

## THE DECORATIONS.

The decorations consisted of a very general display of bunting and colors from the houses from the center, and in the immediate vicinity. Just at the junction of the Shrewsbury and Worcester roads, an arch spanned the street, gaily decorated with bunting and evergreen, and bearing on its face the words: "Boylston welcomes home her sons and daughters;" and on the reverse: "Dear to the heart are the scenes of childhood;" both sides also bearing the dates "1786, 1886." Close by, on the little triangular park, stood the old "Powder House," built in 1772, but in its substantial renovation and gay colors just put on, bearing little trace of its antiquity. Within it stood an old flint-lock. On the same park stood a large tent for the dinner, while across the street to the east was another for the literary exercises. The residence of Henry V. Woods was decorated with bunting, tastefully arranged. John G. Warner had a large array of bunting and flags, covering the front of his house. Henry Bray displayed a large flag. A. E. Waterman decorated his dwelling with bunting and small flags. L. P. Kendall had out a pleasing display of colors and streamers. Henry White's house was prettily ornamented. Joseph M. Wright combined the trio of national colors, making a neat appearance. Fred Morey's house was decorated with bunting. B. C. Lane made a grand display at his house in flags and buntiug. John T. Andrews floated streamers and lines of flags from a staff. Daniel Marsh decorated with bunting, and floated a flag over the street. Deacon Brigham's

house, and the homestead place of the late Stephen Flagg, were decorated with considerable taste. The church was decorated inside with flowers, and outside with flags and bunting. The Town Hall had like decorations, and across all the roads entering the village were large flags.

### THE COLLECTION OF RELICS.

In the Town Hall was a large collection of old relics. Among them we noticed a communion plate 140 years old; some britannia cups 110 years old; many old hats, pieces of clothing and army pieces and uniforms. There was a large collection from the Bigelow family. Andrew Bigelow had three sons who were ministers, and copies of their sermons, at least half a century old, have been preserved; the collection also include a gourd bottle, made of a gourd which grew in 1778; it was uniquely decorated; there was also a piece of linen made by the same family by hand, which is 130 years old, as well as some of the money with which Andrew Bigelow was paid when he was a Revolutionary soldier.

Among the old books was a copy of the Perpetual Laws of the Commonwealth from 1780 to 1789; a copy of the charter granted by Queen Mary to the inhabitants of the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England. A plough made in 1634, owned by Israel L. Barnes, and which has always been in the Barnes family; an old chair, once the property of Judge Chandler; a solid shot, about twelve pounds, fired in New Orleans in 1812; an old pair of scales, at least a century old; a valise of Parson Cotton that is about ninety years old; a compass, supposed to be the property of Robert Andrews, one of the first settlers, and has been in the Andrews family for over a century. There was a large amount of crockery, some of it very old.

### MUSIC.

The music during the day was furnished by the Worcester Brass Band. A concert was given from the band stand on the common, from 8.30 to 9 A. M.

### SALUTES.

Salutes were fired at sunrise and at noon, by Battery B, M. V. M. An exhibition drill by the Battery took place at noon.

### FIELD SPORTS.

The following is a list of the field sports engaged in at the Centennial Celebration of the town of Boylston, August 18, 1886, with names of winning parties.

From 10 A. M. to 12 M., a matched game of base-ball was played between a nine from Shrewsbury, and a nine from Sawyer's Mills. The prize offered, a ball and bat, was won by the Sawyer's Mills nine.

From 1 P. M. to 4 P. M., foot race first, S. McQuoid; second, C. Andrews.

Three-legged Race—First, S. McQuoid and W. Richardson; second, C. Andrews and F. Andrews.

Sack Race—First, A. Jeffrey; second, O'Malia.

Hurdle Race—First, O'Malia; second, C. Andrews.

Wheel-barrow Race—First, O'Malia; second, S. Bartlett.

Apple Race—First, D. Chase; second, C. Mathews.

Doughnut Race—First, A. Newton; second, P. Kelley.

First prize on above races one dollar, second prize fifty cents.

The prize of five dollars for winning side on tug-of-war, was awarded to Fielding, W. Bates, C. Mathews, F. Cooley and G. Sule.

Three parties made unsuccessful attempts at climbing the greased pole. No prize was awarded.

CHARLES BRAY.
C. W. MOORE.
M. FLAGG, JR.
CHARLES CUTLER.
G. A. HASTINGS.
*Committee on Sports.*

The following letters were received :

[From John A. Davenport, Esq., of New York.]

833 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, Aug. 16, 1886.

HON. PHINEHAS BALL, *President.*

*Dear Sir :*—Learning from one of your county newspapers that the citizens of Boylston intend to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its existence, I had fully intended to be present*. But more recent events occurring to prevent my attendance, I take the liberty of sending to them, through you, my hearty congratulations.

" Though being to the manor born," I have not resided in my native town for over fifty years, nor visited it for over twenty years. But I have ever had a great reverence for my native town, the home of my ancestors, from my great grand-parents, both maternal and paternal, down to my honored parents, all of whom, with seven brothers and sisters lie buried in one of your cemeteries, and by whose side I may hope to lie, admonished by my seventy years, in the very near future.

It may not be known to many of the citizens of Boylston that Eleazer, son of Capt. Richard Davenport, who landed from England with Governor Endicott in Salem, September 16, 1628, was granted by the then colonial state of Massachusetts, six hundred acres of land in this town, some of which is now occupied by Dr. F. B. Willard, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Daggett, and Mr. George L. Lamson. Some seventy acres of this land remained in the possession of his descendants until within a few years. My father, James Davenport, lived upon it for more than fifty years, being one of the foremost men of the town ; a magistrate for more than forty years, a leader in the cause of education, the first to form a Lyceum for the instruction of the young, the first to discard the use of alcoholic drinks and form the first temperance society in the town, and noted for his efforts in the cause of the abolition of slavery in the south ; chairman of the committee which planned and caused the construction of your town

* Mr. Davenport was, through some change of circumstances, able to be present, and attended the celebration.

hall, in the school-room of which I received a part of my early education, an intimate friend of the late Governors Lincoln and Davis, and Judge Merrick and other prominent men of your county.

In the remembrance of all these early associations is it any wonder that I revere this, my native town?

In conclusion, permit me to hope that the boundaries of this town may never again be lessened, that its population may be increased, and that they may ever be a prosperous, united and happy people.

Very truly,

JOHN ADDINGTON DAVENPORT.

[From Caleb S. Crossman.]

VAN WEST, O., Aug. 13, 1886.

MESSRS. NATHANIEL L. KENDALL, JOSEPH M. WRIGHT, AND MONTRAVILLE FLAGG, ESQRS, *Com. on Invitations.*

*Gentlemen:*—Your letter of invitation to me to come and join hands with you in celebrating the glorious Centennial Birthday of my own, my native town—Boylston,—name always remembered and revered, was duly received, and I cannot express to you, on paper, how deeply I regret the necessity of saying, "I cannot come." My health is such, and the weather is, and has been, so terribly hot (mercury up from 90° to 104° in the shade) I am advised that it would be too severe a tax upon my strength for me to venture on so long a journey, aside from the excitement attendant upon the so grand and happy occasion. I shall be with you in heart and spirit.

Thanking you for your kindly invitation, I am

Yours with high regard,

C. S. CROSSMAN.

[From William J. White, Esq.]

WORCESTER, Aug. 6, 1886.

MR. NATHANIEL L. KENDALL,

*Dear Sir:*—I received a circular, a few days ago, from the Committee on Invitations to attend the Centennial Celebration to be held in Boylston on the 18th of this month.

My advanced age and infirmities render it somewhat hazardous for me to be present on so exciting an occasion, so that it will be quite uncertain about my going.

Yours very truly,

53 Prospect Street. WILLIAM J. WHITE.

The following telegram was received from the Centennial Committee of the Town of Phillipston, whose one hundredth anniversary was celebrated the same day:

PHILLIPSTON, MASS , Aug., 18, 1886.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, BOYLSTON, MASS.:

Phillipston sends congratulations to Boylston on this the one hundredth anniversary of our towns, August 18. May prosperity attend you in the future.

H. SANDERSON,
*Chairman Cen. Committee.*

The following was sent in reply:

BOYLSTON, MASS., Aug. 18, 1886.

TO THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, PHILLIPSTON:

Boylston sends thanks for the congratulations, and also sends her greetings to Phillipston on this the one hundredth anniversary of the town August 18th. Long may your children gather round you and greet you on your birthdays as circling centuries roll.

J. G. WARNER,
*Chairman Cen. Com.*

## BOYLSTON'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

AUGUST 18, 1886. INCORPORATED MARCH 1, 1786.

'Twas winter when a town new-born
The fathers hailed with loving pride;
We greet the century's bright'ning dawn
Mid summer's pomp of waving corn,
And wealthy harvests wide.

Here those who link the olden time
With time that is rejoicing meet;
Here youthful hope and manly prime,
Like bells diverse that tuneful chime,
The gladsome tale repeat.

The children Boylston sent away
To earn renown in broader spheres.
Come back about her hearth to-day,
And in her lap their trophies lay,
With mirth, and love, and tears.

The anthems that we offer here
Hold one sweet note of tender pain:
One honored son doth not appear;
(Adopted, yet esteemed most dear),
We wait for Gough in vain!

Behind we look and fondly trace
The record that our sires have made;
And memory lends her tender grace
To name and deed, to time and place,—
A light that shall not fade.

We gaze through future vistas far
We step beneath a broadening arch;
No limit shall our progress bar,
Ours all the coming ages are,—
The endless century-march.

CLARA L. SHATTUCK, Berlin.

# Boylston Centennial March.

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## MUSIC

COMPOSED FOR THE OCCASION

BY

HENRY T. BRAY,

A Native of the Town.

# BOYLSTON CENTENNIAL MARCH.

Composed by H. T. BRAY.

*Allegro vivace.*

## BOYLSTON CENTENNIAL MARCH.

## BOYLSTON CENTENNIAL MARCH.

# HISTORICAL NOTES.

## MAJOR EZRA BEAMAN.

[The following brief biography and accompanying documents are extracted from "A Sketch of the Life of Major Ezra Beaman," by Albert A. Lovell, first printed in the Proceedings of The Worcester Society of Antiquity, and since published in separate form by Franklin P. Rice, of Worcester.]

Ezra Beaman was born in Bolton, Mass., October 16, 1736. He was the son of Jabez Beaman, who having purchased a large tract of land in the westerly part of the town of Shrewsbury, favorably situated on both sides of the Nashua River, including some of the most fertile in that region, removed thence with his family in 1746. Jabez Beaman dying in 1757, the homestead came under the proprietorship of Ezra, the eldest son, where he resided until his death. In 1758 he married Persis, daughter of Cyprian Keyes, with whom he lived thirty years. She died November 7th, 1788, at the age of 50 years. By this marriage he had six children. He afterwards married Mary, daughter of Richard Boylston, of Charlestown, who survived him.

It was a characteristic of Major Beaman that he was constituted with an active and vigorous mind, combined with wonderful energy, decision, firmness and perseverance. Thus constituted he was constantly engaged in projects both of a public and private nature which accrued to his own emolument and to great and essential advantage to the whole community. His judgment was almost unerring, and his designs generally resulted in accordance with his expectations and desires. Such

was the confidence reposed in him, and in such high estimation was he held by the people, not only of his own town, but of a large surrounding section, that whenever any project of a public nature bearing upon the well-being of the people at large was to be considered, he was at once consulted and generally in accordance with his expressed opinion either for or against, was the scheme adopted or rejected.

In 1764 he erected a dwelling-house on the tract purchased by his father, which he occupied until his death, and which his son, bearing the same name, continued to occupy for half a century later.

This house, in the thoroughness of its construction, its size and its architectural proportions, was probably unsurpassed by anything of its kind in the county. This was know as the Beaman Tavern, and for a century was a typical Way-side Inn; and from it went out an influence which was felt, not only in its immediate vicinity but throughout a large extent of country.

The tavern of one hundred years ago, and even up to the time when the railroad superseded the stage and the team as a means of transportation for passengers and merchandise, especially when its proprietor was a person of prominence and force, was a power in the community. During the days of the Revolution the tavern was the resort of tories or patriots according to the political proclivities of the landlord, and here were schemes devised, either for or against the patriot cause according to the political character which it assumed. It was at the tavern where the people most frequently assembled either in a formal or informal manner to discuss, debate, devise and carry forward such plans and projects as from time to time occupied the attention of the people. Its good cheer no doubt lent its aid, and who can tell what inspiration it imparted? The influence of the Beaman Tavern was decidedly in favor of the patriot cause and a favorite stopping place for soldiers on their way to and from the army, there to impart or receive the latest information in regard to events so rapidly transpiring.

Major Beaman was a true and ardent patriot. When the first encroachments of arbitrary power were beginning to be felt he was convinced that nothing short of forcible resistance would

be of any avail, and during the struggle he was an active and unflinching spirit in behalf of the liberties of the people. He was with the army near Boston in 1775,* was present and took part in the action on Bunker Hill, and during the whole war was actively engaged in whatever tended to the advancement of the cause. His time, his influence, his property, were devoted to the cause of colonial independence, making the pledge his own, of life, property and sacred honor.

The people of Shrewsbury manifested their confidence in him by repeatedly electing him a member of the Board of Selectmen. He was thus chosen in 1766–69–70–71–72–73–76–79–84–85. We of this day can hardly realize the importance of the office of selectman of a town for the years immediately preceding and during the Revolution. The position seems to have implied but little, but in reality it implied much. In towns true to the patriot cause it implied a lofty patriotism and an unyielding firmness, and was an office of the utmost importance and responsibility. Not only were the selectmen called upon to take care of the ordinary interests of the town, but much additional labor was required. The procuring of soldiers to fill requisitions for men, the raising of money and supplies of provisions, and clothing for the army, the care of the families of soldiers, besides the carrying on of the war to a great extent on the part of the town. As was often the case the Committees of Safety and Correspondence were made up wholly or in part from their number. In accordance with recommendations of the Provincial Congress, the town exercised largely legislative, executive and judicial functions; its votes were laws, its judgment as to whether a man was a patriot or a tory was final, and from the verdict of hostility there was no appeal; and the selectmen and committees executed their decrees with spirit and firmness. By direction of the town they entered tories' houses, disarmed them, confined them

* The powder horn of Lieut. Beaman, now in possession of The Worcester Society of Antiquity, is a beautiful and interesting relic. The inscription upon it is as follows: "Lieut. Ezra Beaman, his horn, made at Fox Poynt, so called, in Dorchester September the 30 y$^{e}$ 1775, in Thomas Gage's war who came to Boston y$^{e}$ Americans for to enslave and take their rights away. Made by Micah Briard."

to limits or in jail as the case might require. Thus the office was no sinecure, but on the contrary one of great labor, and probably at no time in the history of the colonies or the states, has such care been exercised in the choice of town officers as during this period of toil and strife. It is difficult at this day to realize the amount of labor and responsibility which devolved upon them.

Major Beaman, aside from his services in the army, acted a prominent part in the revolutionary proceedings of the town. As selectman, member of the committee of inspection, committee of correspondence and safety, as a prosecutor of persons inimically disposed towards the cause of the colonies, as one chosen to procure men and supplies for the continental army, he was zealous and indefatigable.

In 1781 the people of the North Parish desiring to obtain an act of incorporation as a town, took steps in that direction. In the warrant for a town meeting to be held in May of that year, the fifth article was as follows: "To hear the petition of Ezra Beaman and others praying to be set off a separate town." Some opposition manifesting itself, it was not until 1786 that an act of incorporation was obtained. Of the new town, which was named Boylston, Ezra Beaman was chosen Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, which office he held during the years 1786–88–89–90–91–92, and was a member of the board during the years 1803–4, 5. He was also representative from this town to the Great and General Court in 1789–91, and town treasurer 1791–92–93–94. In 1794 a controversy arose in relation to the location of a new meeting-house about to be erected. Major Beaman, whose residence was some three miles west from Boylston center, was desirous that the new house be erected half a mile northwest of the old one. After a protracted struggle the majority decided to build upon the old site. Major Beaman, with others, seceded and he, at his own expense, built a meeting-house about three miles to the westward, and this difficulty in relation to the meeting-house culminated, after much difficulty, in the incorporation of the town of West Boylston in 1808.

Of the new town he was chosen Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Town Treasurer and Representative to the General Court each year until his death in 1811. Benjamin F. Keyes, in

a very brief history of West Boylston, published in 1858, says: "Although it may in truth be said that West Boylston eventually became a town almost wholly in consequence of his great exertions and untiring efforts, and that he laid the foundation for its future growth and prosperity, and although he did more to promote the general interest thereof than all others associated with him, yet very little, if anything of adequate importance, has been done (aside from a common tomb-stone erected at his grave) either by individual citizens or the town, as a testimony of his extensive influence, usefulness and great worth as a citizen and public benefactor, or for the perpetuation of his memory as one of the most distinguished and influential of the town and community in which he resided."

A few years ago, however, the town desiring to do honor to his memory as its principal founder, voted by a large majority to petition the legislature for a change of name to that of Beaman. Some opposition appearing, and the then representative of the family, a son of him for whom it was to be named, objecting, the petition was never presented.

Ezra Beaman's death occurred June 4, 1811, and his remains were buried in the plot of ground appropriated by his father, previous to his death, as a family burying ground, and in which several generations of the family now lie. This ground is on a ridge of land half a mile from the old Beaman Mansion, near the public road leading to Boylston. It overlooks a beautiful scenery of intervale bordering on the Nashua river, and is enclosed by a remarkably solid and substantial stone wall with an iron gateway.

At his funeral people came from far and near to pay respect to his memory. A lady still living, who was present on that occasion, seventy years ago, informed me that although the place of burial was half a mile from the house, the head of the procession had arrived back to its starting point before the rear had left it. The inscription on the stone which marks his grave is as follows:

ERECTED
IN MEMORY OF
EZRA BEAMAN Esq$^{R}$
WHO DIED
June 4 1811
Aged 74 years 7 months
19 days.

Friends & Physicians could not save
My mortal body from the grave
Nor can the grave confine me here
When Christ shall call me to appear.

Major Beaman was rather short in stature, quick and energetic in motion. He took much pride in beautifying the roadsides of the town by planting along the highway adjoining his vast estate, trees of various kinds with a view to beauty and shade. There is a large buttonwood tree standing by the roadside near the old location of the ancient Beaman house bearing the marks of age, which was planted by him in 1749, he being then thirteen years of age. His life was devoted to whatever tended to the advancement of the interests of the community, and his death was sincerely mourned. He was a member of the Congregational Church and was a liberal contributor to the cause of religion.

The following has an interest as connected with the incorporation of the town of Boylston:

At a legal meeting holden at the Second Precinct in Shrewsbury on Monday the Ninth day of May A. D. 1785, the warrant for said meeting contained the following article viz: "2$^{ndly}$ To hear the Petition of the Committee of the Second Precinct in S$^{d}$ Shrewsbury requesting the town would choose a Joynt Committee from each Precinct to perambulate the line and renew the Bounds between the Precincts, as also to settle all other matters relating to a Separation of Parishes & to act anything relative thereto the toun may think proper." The town voted a committee consisting of six, three in each precinct, viz: Col$^{o}$ Job Cushing, L$^{t}$ Jonas Temple, Capt. Jonah Howe, Capt$^{n}$ Joseph Bigelow, Maj$^{r}$ Ezrah Beaman and Maj$^{r}$ Asa Rice who reported at a

subsequent meeting that they had "run the bounds &c.; that the one half of the town securities, Town Stock of Ammunition & Intrenching tools which are the Property of said Town shall belong to the first precinct, and the other half shall be the property of the second Precinct, being equally divided. The Weights & Measures to be the property of the first precinct." The poor are severally assigned. Voted to sett off.

The following receipts are interesting as showing the position of the town of Boylston in Shays' Rebellion, and as giving the names of persons who served in suppressing that insurrection.

*Boylston, May the* 4 *A D.* 1787.

Then Received of Ezra Beaman the wages that is due to us the Subscribers as they are made up in Capt. Robert Andrews' Muster Roll, for servisses Dun in suppressing the Late Rebellion

JOSEPH HERENY
ELIJAH PIKE
SILVANUS DINSMOOR.

*Boylston May* 10 *A. D.* 1787

Then Receivd of Ezra Beaman all the wages that is Due to us the Subscribers for Serveises while we ware in Capt. Jonah How's Company in Sirpressing the Late Rebellion in the westward County is

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JAMES LONGLEY | SAMUEL WHITCOMB | ALMER GOODNUF |
| JOHN ANDERSON | STEPHEN BIGLO | DAVID RICE |
| JONAS GOODNUF | JASON GLAZIER | KING HOW |
| JOTHAM GOODNUF | ROBERT HUDSON | JOSHUA STILES |
| LEVI MOORE | AMARIAH SAWYER | JOHN WHEELER |
| JOHN HASTINGS JR | WILLIAM SAWYER | LEVI BIGLOW |
| SAMUEL HARTHAN | JOSEPH BIGELOW JR | JONATHAN BOND |

*Boylston May the* 4*th* 1887

Then Received of Ezra Beaman the wages that is due to us the Subscribers as they are made up on Cap$^{t}$ Hollowell Taylers Muster Roll for Servisses Dun in Suppressing the Late Rebellion in the westward Counties.

AMHERST MORSE
JONATHAN BOND JR
JOHN ANDREWS.

The documents which follow have an interest as presenting a portion of the history of the incorporation of the town of West Boylston. In 1794 a petition was presented to the town of Boylston as follows:

*To the Inhabitants of the Town of Boylston, Gentlemen—*
*The petition of the Subscribers Humbly Sheweth*

That your Petitioners view the time as being near at hand when circumstances will admit of their enjoying Ecclesiastical privileges in a more conscientious, agreeable & in a Much more convenient & enlarged manner than they have hitherto done, & being sensible that Religion the basis of human happiness is a natural concomitant of these privileges, we think it our duty to request that you would fully consent to our being incorporated into a separate Town, District or Society, as you think most proper. We do not solicit this favor wholly with a view to promote our Interests, Emolnment or convenience, but for the good of a respectable number of our Neighbors, the welfare of our own & their Children & succeeding generations. Your compliance or non compliance with our request we do not consider as decisive of the cause we have undertaken; but we view it in your present power either to aid or oppose our pursuit of the object we aim at.

We now declare unto you Gentlemen, that we do not wish to obtain the Prayer of our Petition to you, or of a similar one to higher, power, by any unlawful or unfair means; but by contrary means. We are inflexibly determined to use our utmost efforts, Because we are persuaded that our request is not only reasonable but that there is a fair prospect of our being separated from you. That this is the case we think you will not deny. If so, will it not be consistent with your own & our Interest to grant us our request. We think it will.

Consider your Petitioners as separate from you, and you will still be a respectable society, more numerous, of greater ability than many other Towns in the State. Is a forced connection with us worth contending for. Again, we ask what injury can you sustain by parting with us. To this you may reply that your ministers tax will be a little augmented. This will not we think afford

you a sufficient plea to withstand or even induce you to engage in an uncertain contest. These things Gentlemen we request you would wisely consider & your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

EZRA BEAMAN
& 27 others.

This petition the town refused to grant and the following was sent to the Great and General Court:

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled.*

Humbly shew the Subscribers your petitioners, agents for the second parish in Boylston Holden and Sterling in the County of Worcester that the Inhabitants of said Parish are desirous that the Territory belonging to said Parish may be constituted and incorporated into a District by some proper Name and vested with all the Powers and Privileges which by law appertain and belong to Districts.

Your petitioners believe that the Happiness and Comfort of the second Parish aforesaid will be promoted by an incorporation into a District, that their concerns will be managed with more facility, convenience & with less Difficulty than in their present situation, that no possible injury can accrue to the town of Boylston, Holden & Sterling or any other place, by your granting their request. Confidently relying on the Justice & Wisdon of the Legislature they humbly hope that their petition will be granted and as in Duty bound will ever pray.

Jan'y 1807 EZRA BEAMAN, JONATHAN PLYMPTON, PAUL GOODALE, WILLIAM FAIRBANK } Agents for and in behalf of the Parish in Boylston Holden & Sterling.

In House of Representatives
July 23, 1807 Received & Committed to Committee on Towns.
Sent up for Concurrence PEREZ MORTON Speaker.
In Senate Jan'y 23 1807, Read & Concurred.

J. BACON President.

The Committee of both Houses appointed to consider the Applications for the incorporation of Towns &c. on the Petition of Ezra Beaman and others report the following order which is submitted.

SALEM TOWNE Per order.

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Ordered*: That the Petitioners cause an attested Copy of their Petition with this order thereon, to be served on the respective Town Clerks of the Towns of Boylston, Holden & Sterling, Forty days at least before the first Tuesday of the first session of the next General Court, that all persons may then appear, and show cause (if any they have) why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted.

In Senate Jan'y 24th 1807

Read and passed. Sent down for Concurrence.

J. BACON President.

In House of Representatives Jan'y 26th 1807

Read & Concurred.

PEREZ NORTON Speaker.

A copy of this petition was served upon the town clerk of Boylston by Silas Beaman. A copy was served upon the town clerks of Holden and Sterling by Robert B. Thomas.

This petition brought out the following remonstrance:

*To the Honorable Senate & House of Representatives in General Court Assembled.*

The Inhabitants of the town of Boylston in the County of Worcester being cited on the Petition of Ezra Beaman & others to shew cause why the second Precinct in the Town of Boylston, Sterling & Holden should not be Incorporated into a District: The Subscribers, agents for said Town duly authorized & appointed for that purpose Respectfully submit to your consideration their answer to the said prayer of said petition.

An unfortunate division having arisen in said Town in the year 1794 relative to the location of a Meeting house, then about

to be erected, a few disaffected individuals have from that period been indefatigable in their exertions to produce the dismemberment & eventually the total ruin of the Corporation. In pursuance of this object the leading Petitioner availed himself of the Power and Influence derived from an ample fortune, erected a Meeting house at his own Individnal expense within the limits of the present precinct, publicly proclaiming his intention to bring a separation as the most direct and certain means of destroying the Town. A petition was presented to the Legislature for the Incorporation of a new Town to be composed of certain sections of the towns of Boylston, Sterling & Holden; on this Petition the said towns were cited and their opposition having proved successful, the next effort was to obtain an Incorporation of the present Precinct. Not satisfied with the accomplishment of this purpose, a petition was soon after preferred for an enlargement of the precinct by lopping off another section of the said Town of Boylston. The Inhabitants were again cited and notwithstanding their strenuous opposition the object was effected.

Having thus gradually severed from the original Corporation by far the most valuable and fertile portions of the Territory & more than one quarter of the whole number of ratable polls, the remaining Inhabitants had flattered themselves that the enemy would "Cease from troubling" and that they should be permitted to enjoy in tranquility the privileges which had been left to them after this injurious encroachment.

It being discovered however that the Town would survive the shock and that something more remained to be done before the Ancient Corporation would be completely subverted, a new Project is devised & an attempt is now made, (with a spirit of obstinate perseverance for which our leading opponent is particularly distinguished ) to convert the Precinct into a district more effectually to Impair our privileges and to accomplish this systematic work of Destruction. Possessing advantages for an Increase of Population much superior to the first Precinct (from the better quality of their Land & other local causes) it is calculated with confidence by the Petitioners that the ratable polls within the intended district which are now nearly equal will soon exceed in number those within the Town of Boylston. By thus bringing to

their aid a small portion of the Inhabitants of Sterling and Holden (who will compose a part of the district) it is intended by our enemies Inhabiting this disaffected section to deprive the Town of the important privilege of Representation. Such will be the Inevitable consequence of incorporating the petitioners into a district, Provided such district is attached to the Town of Boylston.

Such we know to be the object of their leaders because it has been openly avowed, and although the petition is silent on the subject of annexation they have publicly declared their intention to be annexed to the Town of Boylston.

With this impression, with an anxious desire to preserve our Corporate existence, to retain the privilege of representation and to defeat a project concerted for our complete disfranchisement as a member of the Commonwealth, We beg leave respectfully & earnestly to remonstrate against the prayer of said petition, *provided the District thus to be incorporated is to be annexed to the town of Boylston of which we are Inhabitants.*

At the same time we wish it to be explicitly understood that all opposition on our part is withdrawn if it be consented on the part of the petitioners or is found expedient by the Legislature *to annex the intended District to Sterling, Holden or any other Town in the County.* For although we have most sensibly felt the injury resulting to us from the partial dismemberment of this small but once united & flourishing Corporation, yet our peace has been so incessantly disturbed by new projects of encroachment, and we have encountered so much trouble and expense in opposing these projects that we are now fully pursuaded we shall never be at rest; that our existence as a Corporation will be in perpetual jeopardy until this troublesome and offending member is totally severed from the body which it thus threatens to destroy.

For the fourth time the Town of Boylston is now cited before the Legislature to answer to the petition of Ezra Beaman and others. The object of each of these petitions has been most essentially to injure if not destroy us as a Corporation. Let Ezra Beaman & others become a Corporation totally detached from us, & whatever may be the evil we will Patiently submit. We trust with confidence in the wisdom of the Legislature to discern

the object of the present petition, & we trust with equal confidence that they will be influenced by a desire of justice & a regard to the essential interests of a small but peaceable community, to refuse an act of incorporation annexing the proposed District to the Town of Boylston against the earnest wishes and settled opposition of every Individual who feels a solicitude to preserve our existence as a Corporation.

Boylston May 27 1807 — JAMES LONGLEY, ROBERT ANDREWS, AARON WHITE } Agents for the town of Boylston.

A remonstrance against annexation signed by Jonas Temple and sixty-one others was also presented to the Legislature, the principal argument being that it would affect the privileges of representation. Sometime afterwards agents of the town of Boylston and of the precinct in Boylston, Holden and Sterling, met and signed articles of agreement, Article 1st of which was as follows: "It is agreed that the Precinct shall be incorporated into a town."

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## ANCIENT DOCUMENTS.

We are indebted to Mr. George Sumner, of Barnard, Sumner & Co., Worcester, who has kindly loaned the original papers from which we copy the following items. It may be of interest to the present generation to know how our ancestors conducted their church councils, and what they had for refreshments. The first item refers to a bill which was contracted with Ezra Beaman for entertaining a church council which convened to settle a minister, and lasted seven days, beginning Jan. 25th, 1768, and closing Feb. 2nd, 1768. We give the bill of items for the first day's entertainment. The total amount for the seven days foots up £13–12–10–3.

It appears by the subjoined receipts that the bill was not paid till several years after.

December the 30 A d 1767

Deacon Jonathan-Keyes & Cyprian Keyes Committy for the Sec-

ond Church in Shrewsbury to Ezra Beaman Dr to Entertainment for part of a Councel that met at my house then.
To Sundries Delivered then 0–17–8–3

January 25 A d 1768
the whole of the Councel then met at my house
to things Delivered then Viz

| | S d 2 |
|---|---|
| to Brandy | 0–6–0 |
| to one mug flip | 0–6–0 |
| to half a mug westindia flip | 0–3–2 |
| to Brandy & Spirits | 1–3–3 |
| to 19 Suppers | 11–5–0 |
| Ceeping 19 Horses one Nite | 12–8–0 |
| to 13 Logings | 3–5–2 |
| Januar 26 | |
| to Brandy & Spirits | 1–8–0 |
| to 19 Brexfasts | 11–5–0 |
| to 19 messes of oats | 3–10–0 |
| to two mug of flip | 1–0–0 |
| one Boal Toddy Spirits & flip | 1–1–2 |
| to 19 Dinners | 15–2–2 |

Carried over

Shrewsbury march 17 ye 1768
Then Receid of Decon Jonathan Keyes two pounds two shillings In part of the Expence of the Councel which was Due from the Church: I Say Receid By me pr EZRA BEAMAN.

Shrewfbury march the 8th 1771
Received of Cyprian Keyes one of the Committee of the Second Church in Said Shrewfbury the Sum of Two Pounds Ten Shillings & Eight Pence in part to Pay the Expence of the Councel that Conveined at my house in the year 1768.

L s p Pr EZRA BEAMAN.

2–11–8

A Return Capt Ezra Beaman Company in Shrewsbury the Seventh Compt Col. Goldings Rigi Mens Names Ebenezer Keyes 3 Richard Smith 3 John Ingalsbee 3 Joseph Bixby Dureing Eli Keyes Dureing David Bennit 3 Benjamin Hinds 3 John Bixby 3 under Capt adam wealler & Colonel Nixsons Regiment.

Abraham Hager 3 Capt Morse. Col Putnam Regiment.

Matthew wigman During the war David williams 3 years Eli Gale 3 years Joel Chase 3 years Capt Gates Colo Biglo Regiment.

Nickles Briard 8 months Israel Keyes 8 months Reubin townsend 8 months Asher Hinds 8 months James Parker 8 months Ditto Ditto

Jonathan Ginnings In the Lite horse.

mr James Walker, of woburn, Rum. was 5 gallons 3 Quarts & one gil which I receid the 20 Day Nov. 1779 for which I am. to give 2 Bushels of Corn. for Each gallon. 11 Bushel one half. & two Quarts of Corn.

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Shrewsbury June 6 AD 1777

A Return of Capt Ezra Beaman Company of the arms & Equipment

EZRA BEAMAN Capt

| men Names | mens Names |
|---|---|
| Robert Andrews Jr | Edmond Stiles |
| Jonas Goodnow | Daniel Whitney Jun |
| matthew Deavenport | Jonathan Bond |
| oliver Dinsmoor | Jonathan Bond Jun |
| Ebenezer Ingalesbee | Amariah Biglo |
| moses Goodale | Benjamin Hinds |
| Aaron Goodale | Jonas Temple |
| David Goodale | Joseph Bigelo Jun |
| Thomas Keyes | Ebenezer Ingalesbee |
| Stephen Partridg | Robert Andrews |
| Abel Holt | Ephriam Beaman |
| John Willington | William Winn |
| Josiah Cutting | Timothy Ross |
| Calvin Glazier | Ebenezer Morse |

Simeon Keyes
Josiah Randel
Abel Biglo
Daniel Ball
John Fleharty
Daniel Andrews
John Andrews
John Parker
Joseph morse Jun
Jacob Pike
Caleb Kendall
John Flagg
Stephen Flagg
Stephen Flagg Jr
Stephen Brigham
Samuel Andrews
William Eames
Jonathan Andrews
Silas Cutting
Zaddock Cutting
Ebenezer Cutting
David Hastings
Aaron Temple
James Holland
Phillip monroe
Abel Osgood
Joseph Inglesbee
Thomas Andrews
Joseph Morse
Cliakim Morse
Amherst Morse
Richard Rand
Job Spafford
David Andrews
amos fuler
Benjamin Keyes
Abraham Townsend
Cyprian Keyes Jun
Benjamin Fisk
Charles Biglo
William Crafford
John Wright
Oliver Peirce
Jonathan Gage
Stephen Hastings
Joseph Cutting
Nethanel Robbins
micah Briard
Timothy Temple
Barzealli Bennit
Daniel Tombe
John Bennit
Jonas Richardson
Timothy Whitney
Joshua Townsend
Jotham Bush Juner

## REV. EBENEZER MORSE.

The following inscription was copied from the stone which marks the resting-place of the first minister settled in Boylston, at that time (1743) the "North Parish of Shrewsbury."

"Beneath this stone rests the remains of Rev. Ebenezer Morse, A.M., who upwards of fifty years exercised the functions of a christian minister in this place. Endowed by the Father of Lights with a strong and capacious mind, he richly stored it by

seeking and intermedling with all wisdom. As a Divine he was learned; as a physician, eminent; as a philosopher, deep, extensive and correct in his views. As a politician of piercing incite, of individual character, shrewd in reply, able in controversy, abounding with narrative, the portion of helpless merit, and fulfilling with exactness the duties of husband, teacher and friend, he died, Jan. 3rd, 1802. Aeg. 84 yrs."

This stone also preserves the memory of Mrs. Percis Morse, the amiable and virtuous consort of the Rev. E. Morse. She died May 6th, 1786, aged 61 years, having been united in marriage thirty-three years. From this union sprang eleven children.

The Rev. Ebenezer Morse, who served as minister, doctor and lawyer, and whose relations with the parish were very harmonious up to the Revolution, espoused the cause of the Royal government and became a tory. On pages 273–274 History of Worcester County, under the head of Shrewsbury, we find the following: May 2d, 1774, the town voted, "that Phineas Heywood, Isaac Temple, Edward Flint, Ross Wyman, and Isaac Harrington be a committee to examine the Rev. Ebenezer Morse and others suspected of toryism." Mr. Morse was found guilty, and it was voted "that the committee of correspondence forthwith take from said Morse his arms, ammunition and warlike implements of all kinds, to remain in said committee's hands for the present; and that the said Morse do not pass over the lines of the 2nd parish in Shrewsbury, on any occasion whatever, without a permit from two or more of the committee of said precinct."

## FIRST BURIAL.

Epitaph found inscribed on the headstone of the first grave in the old cemetery:

"Here lies ye body of Garner Maynard, son of Mr. Elisha and Mrs. Huldah Maynard, who died Apr. ye 14th 1745, aeg. 11 months and 11 days."

And on the foot-stone:

"This is ye first body that in this burying ground doth lie."

## BOYLSTON'S ROLL OF HONOR IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

Ferdinand Andrews, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D.

William A. Andrews, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co .D.

Samuel E. Andrews, 53d Regiment Infantry, 9 months, Co. K.

George H. Andrews, 53d Regiment, Infantry, 9 months, Co. K.

George W. Brewer, Corporal 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D. Reenlisted. Killed at Cold Harbor, Va.

Walter A. Brigham, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D.

Alonzo H. Bigelow, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

Augustus Brigham, Corporal, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E.

Henry F. Brigham, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E.

Henry C. Brewer, 5th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E.

George Bennett, 5th Regiment Infantry, ——, Co. E.

Asa A. Bennett, 5th Regiment Infantry, ——, Co. E.

Edward A. Estabrook, 51st Regiment Infantry, 9 months.

John M. Forbes, Sergeant, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C. Died Salisbury, N. C,

Benjamin C. Fawcett, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E. Reenlisted.

Webster M. Flagg, 53d Regiment Infantry, 9 months, Co. K.

J. Henry Flagg, 4th Cavalry and 5th Infantry.

Elliott Flagg, 4th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. I. Killed at the battle of Antietam, Md.

Augustus Flagg, 15th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. B.

Charles H. Glazier, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E.

William J. Howe, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years. Co. C.

Henry J. Hyde, 3d Regiment, Co. D.

Charles Hooper, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

J. Emerson Holbrook, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D.

Francis M. Harrington, 53d Regiment Infantry, 9 months, Co.K. Reenlisted 57th Regiment, Co. K.

Elmer B. Howe, 15th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

Albert S. Hastings, 21st Regiment Infantry. 3 years, Co. E. Reenlisted. Died in Camp Nelson, Ky.

Theodore Hazard, 54th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D.

Henry Hazard, 54th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D.

Flavel Leach, Jr., 15th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. B.

Henry J. Locke, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D. Reenlisted.

Alfred G. Larkin, Sergeant, 4th Cavalry, Co. C.

Gilbert F. Miller, 53d Regiment Infantry, 9 months, Co. B.

Jonathan A. Morey, 34th Regiment, Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

Patrick Neyland, 15th Regiment, Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

Benjamin W. Parker, 13th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. I.

John W. Partridge, 25th Regiment Infantry. 3 years, Co. D, Transferred to Signal Corps.

James E. Prentice, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

John R. Roberts, 2d Regiment, Infantry, 3 years. Co. K. Killed at Cedar Mountain, Va.

James E. Taylor, 25th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. D. Reenlisted.

John Tucker, Corporal, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

Watson Wilson. 36th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. I. Died of wounds at Washington, D. C.

Joseph M. Wright, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years. Co. C.

James M. Wilson, Corporal, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. C.

John W. Warren, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. E.

Henry White; Sergeant, 21st Regiment Infantry, 3 years. Co. E. Reenlisted.

Thomas B. Warren, 34th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. F. Transferred to V. R. C.

William H. Whipple, 57th Regiment Infantry, 3 years, Co. K.

Alanson Warner, 4th Regiment Heavy Artillery, 1 year, Co. D.

James H. Wilson, 21st Regiment Infantry, ——, Co. L.

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## THE BUSH FAMILY.

[At the after-dinner exercises, the toast, "The Bush Family," was responded to by Dr. William Frederic Holcombe, of New York, (a son of Lucy Bush and Deacon August tine Holcombe, of Sterling). Dr. Holcombe said: "It seems to me more appropriate that Charles Henry Bush from Boston, son of John Wm. Bush, should reply, and I forbear until he appears for his ancestors." Mr. Bush standing on a chair, bowed to the audience which greeted him heartily; he said: "I am very much pleased to be present in this home of my forefathers, but I must be excused from making any remarks, as I am not accustomed to public speaking, being generally occupied with mercantile affairs, besides I am unacquainted here, and know little about the Bush family in Boylston." An old gentleman near by said: "Go on, we knew your father well and he was beloved by us all." Mr. Bush in concluding said: "I shall feel thankful to my cousin, Dr. Holcombe, if he will proceed with his remarks because he as fully as myself represents the Bush family, and can speak for it."]

Dr. Holcombe then said: "I now exhibit a representation of the residence of Col. Jotham Bush; it was built in 1796, and destroyed by fire Oct. 20, 1859. I have surrounded it by thirty-six

portraits of the Bush family, decendants of Col. Bush and Mary Taylor, and of his brother John Bush and Charity Platt.

I cannot now speak of the personal qualities of the Bush family, of Boylston, as my time is limited. You will remember that "Good wine needs no Bush." I will reverse this and say, that a good Bush needs no wine. Though I see in your "Boylston Centennial" of to-day, that in 1768 during a church council held for seven days in "ye North Parish of Shrewsbury" the clergy required plenty of good "spirits," while convened at the well-known inn of Ezra Beaman.

The name of Bush is probably derived like many others from location of residence. The ancient Bush people very likely lived "in the Bush," as they now say in England, meaning in the woqd or forest. Like Adam and Eve, they dwelt in "the groves" which were "God's first temples."

The Bush family had no more royal, ancient residence, and they have always been admirers of nature.

In Drake's and in Hotten's New England Emigrants, it is recorded that John Bush, aged 22, arrived in 1634, in ship "Alexander" from London, and settled in Watertown, Mass., and died in Cambridge, Nov. 1, 1662. By wife Elizabeth, he had five children; among them Abiah (or Abial) born March 2, 1661, who went to Marlborough in 1690. (See Hudson's Marlborough and Ward's Shrewsbury.) He married June 27, 1688, Grace Barrett; among their seven children was John, born July 18, 1699, married, April 24, 1723, Martha, daughter of Isaac Temple and Martha Joslin. He moved in 1729 to North Parish of Shrewsbury, where he died, July 14, 1757; his wife died March 2, 1792, aged 92. His house was east of the road nearly opposite the old residence of his grandson, Col. Jotham Bush. The well can still be seen near the highway.

John Bush (1st) had five children, viz: 1, John (2nd); 2, Martha; 3, Persis; born, May 82, 1727 (married Rev. Ebenezer Morse, M. D., and had eleven children); 4, Jotham (1st); born, May 23, 1729; 5, Martha; born, Jan. 13, 1738 (married Cyprian Keyes, Jr., May 27, 1756, had four sons and five daughters).

Jotham (1st) being like his relatives here, a tory or royalist,

was sent by military authorities, and placed on a vessel in Boston Harbor, where he died of small-pox in 1778. He married, March 24, 1750, Hepzibah, daughter of Deacon Cyprian Keyes and Hepzibah Howe; (She married 2nd in 1779, Edward Raymond, Esq., of Sterling). Jotham Bush (1st) had six sons and four daughters; of these Jotham (2nd) was known in Boylston as "Col. Jotham," for service in local militia. He was a farmer, merchant, inn-keeper and carried on business opposite and north of the old cemetery, in the house now owned by J. G. Warner, it was built by David Taylor, an uncle of Mrs. Bush. On retiring from business to the other farm, he sold his house to Aaron White, Esq.Colonel Bush was born April 8, 1757; died, Dec. 13, 1837; he married June 8, 1781, Mary, daughter of John Taylor, Jr., and Jemima Holloway, granddaughter of John Taylor, and great grand-daughter of Eleazer Taylor, Sr., and Lydia Barrett, of Marlborough, but a first settler in North Parish, Shrewsbury. The obituaries of Col. Bush and wife can be seen in Worcester *Spy* of Nov. 17, 1836, and Dec. 13, 1837 respectively.

They had ten children:

(1.) Mary, born June 15, 1782; died, Sept. 24, 1867; married Major Elijah Brigham, of Westboro; had Mary Sophia and Theodore Frederick.

(2.) Jemima Holloway, born Sept. 15, 1784; married Thomas Bond, Esq., of West Brookfield, and died July 20, 1866, at Springfield; had Henry Morris, Lucy Ann, Clarinda, Thomas, Wm. Bush, George Taylor, Mary Bush, Ephraim Ward, Edward Newton.

(3.) John, born Dec. 2, 1786; died April 14, 1788.

(4.) Clarinda, born Aug. 4, 1790; married Rev. Alex Lovell, a native of West Boylston; had Mary Bush and Thomas Alexander; died Feb. 20, 1878, at Waltham.

(5.) Harriet, born Jan. 5, 1793, died Sept. 8, 1794.

(6.) Lucy, born March 30, 1794, married June 1, 1825, Dea. Augustine Holcombe, of Sterling, Mass.; married second, Rev. Bancroft Fowler; died Oct. 3, 1854, at Stockbridge, Mass. Of five children two lived to adult age; Susan Huntington died), Dr. William Frederic Holcombe, of New York city.

(7.) Harriet, born May 23, 1796, married Col. Oliver Sawyer, Jr., of Boylston, died Sept. 9, 1872, at Brooklyn, N. Y. One daughter, Harriet, married Thomas White, Esq.; they have Salome Elizabeth. (2). Alfred Sawyer died in Sterling, aged 53, leaving a daughter Harriet, (now the wife of Mr. Mears); has one daughter.

(8.) Martha, born Feb. 10, 1798, is now living, aged 88, in Brooklyn, N. Y. She was married June 4, 1823, by Rev. Ward Cotton, to Rev. Baxter Dickinson, native of Amherst, settled then in Longmeadow, Mass.; he died, 1875, aged 80, in Brooklyn, N. Y.; had Richard Storrs, William Cowper, Martha, Mary, Harriet, Isabella.

Rev. Richard Storrs Dickinson was associate pastor of Rev. Dr. Barnes, of Philadelphia, and died while on a visit to Europe in Edinburgh.

Rev. William Cowper Dickinson, pastor of College Hill Presbyterian Church, near Cincinnati, has sons and daughters.

(9.) Jotham 3d (called Deacon Jotham), born Sept. 30, 1800, died here July 30, 1880, married Hannah Fisher; children, Augustine Holcombe (dead), and Mary Dickinson.

(10.) John William, born May 5, 1803, died in Springfield, Mass., 1843; children, William Delano, Charles Henry, (in Boston), Martha Dickinson, (now Mrs. Dr. Francis Willard, of Dorchester, Mass.; has Harry).

Concerning John Bush, 2d, he was born July 4, 1755. He was a royalist during the Revolutionary war and made much money as an Exchange Broker, and had a tavern and restaurant on Pearl Street, New York. He moved to Worcester in 1800 to the Chandler Mansion on (Main Street, opp. the Old South Church), which was sold at his death, in 1816, to Ira M. Barton, Esq. John Bush had by his first wife, Charity Platt, Cornelia, Richard Platt, Jonas, who was a Doctor. He had Caroline and George, now in California.

Cornelia married Elnathan Pratt, of Worcester, and had five children, one, Jotham Bush Pratt, living in Worcester.

Richard Platt Bush had William Henry, John, James Feltz, Richard, Charles Craft, Charles.

John had by Sarah Ann Wheeler one son. John died in

1845, on his way from New Orleans, leaving Allen Carnes Bush, now of St. Louis, Mo., he has two daughters and one son. Portraits are shown of five generations of this branch.

Levi, a son of Jotham Bush, 1st, was born March 26, 1763, married Nov. 23, 1784, Martha Ball; had eight children, one, Dr. John Bush, born July 3, 1792, grad-uated at Bowdoin College, Maine, in 1814, was widely known for his learning. He died Feb. 29, 1876, at Vasalboro, Me. During a vacation, in 1812, passed with his uncle, Col. Jotham Bush, he arranged and penned the very ornamental Geneological Chart of the Bush, Keyes and Taylor families, which I now, by kindness of the owner, Mrs. Martha Bush Dickinson, present for your inspection.

Martha, daughter of Levi Bush, was born Aug. 19, 1787, died May 2, 1854, married Prof. Parker Cleveland, M. D. L.L. D., of Bowdoin College. They left a large family: Jotham, a son of Levi, died at Newton Corners, without issue, about 1875. Levi 2d, born Aug. 31, 1797, died in Westfield, Mass., about 1878, leaving, by two wives, a large family of daughters. I shall soon publish a history of the Bush family giving the female lines, especially of Fitch, Smith, Robbins, of Sterling, and of others, the daughters of Levi Bush.

Of the family of Col. Jotham Bush, Martha, aged nearly 89, alone remains. She is in excellent health, in full possession of her mental powers, and ever commands the respect, love and veneration of all.

In a recent interview with her concerning the people and old times in Boylston, she kindly, without any reference to any manuscript, recited to me an Acrostic composed for her by a Boylston friend about 1818. It so completely portrays her excellent qualities that I feel certain her old Boylston friends will enjoy hearing it.

ACROSTIC TO MARTHA BUSH.

Might I invoke great Milton's muse
And Homer's pen with freedom use,
Rich with these gifts, my pen I'd lend
To paint the virtues of my friend.
Hers are those graces that impart
A thrilling charm to every heart.

Beauteous in form, in feature fair,
Unknown to pride or selfish care,
Sincere in heart, of temper mild,
Heaven owns her a favorite child.

Few of the name of Bush remain in this region, though in the female line, the descent is numerous. It is unnecessary to speak at length of the virtues and excellent qualities of Col. Jotham Bush and Mary Taylor. Your town records furnish information concerning what he did for Boylston. Your church records state what they and what their son, Deacon Jotham Bush, did for this parish. Let the descendants of the Bush family endeavor to be worthy of their ancestry.

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## THE BIGELOW FAMILY.

[In answer to an invitation from the General Committee to Mrs. N. J. Bigelow, wife of the late Andrew Bigolow, D. D., and daughter of the late Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston, to send them some facts relating to the life of Rev. Dr. Bigelow, the following communication has been received:]

The Centennial address by Henry M. Smith, Esq., informs us "that among the first settlers in Shrewsbury who took up allotments in what is now Boylston were the Bigelos," which familiar name has been identified with its history up to the present time.

We find in the "Return of Capt. Ezra Beaman's Company, June 6, 1777," Abel and Charles Biglo, with Joseph Bigelo, Jun.; also that Capt. Joseph Bigelo was chosen treasurer at the first meeting, March 13, 1786, after the incorporation of the town."

Near the entrance of the old cemetery at the left are nine grave-stones bearing this name, varying in the last syllable, Big-low and Big-e-low, three of which are in memory of the father, grandfather and great grandfather of families in our community to-day.

Capt. Joseph Biglow, died Jan. 24, 1783, 81 years of age. His wife, Martha D., died Oct. 15, 1782, 70 years of age.

Their son, Charles Bigelow, died Nov. 20, 1782, aged 52 years. His widow moved to Sudbury and married —— Smith.

Andrew Bigelow died Sept. 11, 1834, aged 71 years.

Andrew, son of Charles and second of nine children, when sixteen years of age, enlisted in 1780 for the remainder of the war. These last "three years men" were subjected to great hardships, and by the depreciation of the "Continental Currency" received the least compensation for their services. His children remember his recital of the sufferings of the soldiers during one winter in the woods of Pennsylvania, from want of shoes, through inability of the government to provide better for her troops.

In 1785 he married Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Fassett, of Boylston. Children: Allethusa; Clerimond; Lucy, died in childhood; Jonathan; Solomon; Asahel; Mary; John, died in childhood; William Pitt only survives, born April 10th, 1801, resides with his son, Henry W. Bigelow, in Newtonville. Sarah, wife of Andrew Bigelow, died Jan. 25, 1806, aged 41 years.

Second wife, Mrs. Lydia Whitney. Children: Francis W. W., deceased; Andrew, Jr., deceased; James; John T. E.; Sarah F.; Lydia L., deceased.

Mrs. Lydia W. Bigelow died Jan. 10, 1862, aged 83 years and 4 months.

For years after the war only widows who were the first wives of Revolutionary soldiers drew pensions, but through the influence of Rev. Andrew Bigelow, and the Hon. Horace Mann, when in Congress, the bill was so amended that *all* widows received a pension. Mrs. Bigelow drew $100 yearly.

This father of fifteen children, whose motto was, "Find out what is right, stick to it and go ahead," not only from necessity but from principle, brought up these sons and daughters in habits of strict obedience and close industry. A great reader, full of anecdote, and of a retentive memory, the home influences from the parents favored all the means of education the town then afforded. The supervision and deep interest of their pastor, Rev. Dr. Cotton, in school instruction, with his friendly approval and

words of encouragement "in finding so many Bigelows at the head of classes," were never forgotten by this family. These early surroundings fostering the elements of success in each character, led three of these boys to start out in life for themselves, with a fixed purpose to employ head, heart and hands, in laying a foundation for future happiness, respectability, and usefulness in the world.

Rev. Jonathan Bigelow left home to learn a trade, but as he became interested in religion, he studied for college and graduated at Yale, and was pastor of the Center Church in Rochester, Mass., from May 10, 1827 to 1849. After service in Ohio, he died in 1855, sixty-two years of age, and was buried in Collamer, his church erecting a monument to his memory. Married "Eliza Tappan, a lady eminently qualified amid rare facilities for education, and of deep piety, for the duties of a pastor's wife. Her numerous contributions to the New York *Observer* and published works show the pen of a ready writer."

Rev. Asahel Bigelow left home when twenty years of age, his father giving him his time, and in the fall of 1817 walked to Andover, forty-five miles, and entered the Academy—"went through the Latin grammar in a fortnight,"—graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1823, and Andover Theological Seminary in ——; was ordained pastor of the Orthodox Congregational Church in Walpole, Mass., March 28, 1828, his brother Rev. Jonathan, preaching the sermon. In 1850 he settled in Hancock, N. H., and after this pastorate of twenty-five years, and a ministry of forty-nine years, he retired from active labor and passed away in Hancock Aug. 16, 1877.

We quote from another: "Mr. Bigelow was pre-eminently a Bible preacher—a man of deep piety and earnest prayer, a diligent student of lively and cheerful disposition, he was everywhere beloved." His widow, Mrs. Dorcas F. Bigelow, daughter of Hon. Henry Homes, of Boston, resides with her daughter, Mrs. Tuttle, in Hancock, N. H. Her only child, Charles Tuttle, graduated from Bowdoin College, Maine, and is at present a student in Germany.

Rev. Andrew Bigelow, D. D., was the second son of the second marriage. The years of his minority were chiefly spent in

mechanical pursuits with his father, but with an irrepressible desire to prepare himself for the Christian ministry he bought two years' time of his father, studied at Amherst Academy, under the care of Rev. Mr. Colton, and in less than a year entered Amherst College in 1834. With that invincible determination and energy so characteristic of him through life, contending with physical infirmity, often studying on his bed, he graduated in the Class of 1838.

Resuming teaching, and while Principal of Rochester Academy, Mass., two and a half years, he read theology with his brother, Rev. Jonathan Bigelow and Dr. Thomas Robbins; was licensed by the Old Colony Association, and ordained pastor of the church in South Dartmouth 1841, Rev. Asahel Bigelow preaching the sermon. After pastorates in the towns of West Needham, Westhampton (only a year in consequeuce of an injury by accident), and Medfield eleven years, he was invited to supply the pulpit in his native town, and commenced labor in the fall of 1866. The uniform courtesy and kindness extended to himself and wife, in so many different forms, for nearly seven years, rendered the relation between pastor and people one of peculiar interest; with heart and hand both united in labors for the welfare of Zion; the interior of the Church was repaired and improved by the addition of a fine organ. His love for the young with his untiring efforts for the highest success in the schools of his parish, are still remembered; and when declining years obliged him to relinquish the Master's work he so much loved, and seek a home in a neighboring town, the same happy intercourse continued.

In the words of another: "The pulpit and parish labors of Dr. Bigelow have been characterized by soundness of theology, spirituality of discourse, boldness in proclaiming what he thought to be truth, sociability of intercourse, and success in the winning of souls. He had much of the missionary spirit, and seemed to delight in serving the weaker churches. His worth as an educational director (himself a teacher of rare ability), has inseparably connected his name with the cause of universal and scholarly education."

He passed away, in Southboro, Sept. 23, 1882, leaving a

widow, the daughter of Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston; his first wife, Emily Louisa, daughter of Hon. William Blackler, of Marblehead, died in Medfield July 4, 1857. Their two children died in infancy. Rev. Andrew Bigelow was aged 72 years 9 months when he deceased.

Families in town:

*First.*—James Bigelow, resides with his second son, James A. His third son, William S. (M. D.), graduated from the New York Homœopathic Medical College March 13, 1884, is practising in Philipsburg, Penn., married a niece of Mrs. John B. Gough.

*Second.*—John T. E. Bigelow (and wife), named for his maternal and paternal ancestors, John Bigelow, Thomas and his son Elias Sawyer, who were carried captives to Canada in 1705: the two elder, by building a saw-mill secured their freedom. Elias remained to run it a year, and during this time he won the heart of the Governor's daughter, pledging his return after a visit to his parents; but as they objected to the match, tradition says, "Batrix Pope sat many a long and tedious year waiting her lover's return, until worn out with watching she passed over Jordan to seek for him in the promised land."

*Third.*—Mrs. Sarah F., wife of Newel Parker.

The mother of Miss Dorothea Dix, the philanthropist, was sister to Andrew Bigelow, Senior.

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## THE KENDALL FAMILY.

Though the Kendalls have never been very numerous in Boylston, there was one family that moved into the town soon after its incorporation. They came from Ashburnham in 1792.

"Francis Kendall, who was the ancestor of most of the Kendalls of Massachusetts, and indeed of New England, came from England, and settled in Woburn, as early as somewhere from 1636 to 1640, and was made freeman in 1647."

"He married Dec. 24, 1644, Mary Tidd, of that town, and

had John, born 1646, Thomas, born 1648, Samuel, born May 8, 1659, besides several daughters."

This son Samuel married Rebekah ———, and their son Samuel, born Aug. 13, 1684, married Prudence ———, whose son Samuel, born 1711, married Phœbe Brintain Sept. 23, 1736.

The following children of Samuel and Phœbe Kendall, were baptized, in Sterling, by Rev. Mr. Mellen:

Samuel, baptized February 17, 1745.
Rebecca, " " " "
Abigail, " July 20, 1746.
Caleb, " May 15, 1748.
Bartholomew, baptized February 18, 1749.
Caleb, baptized March 24, 1750.
Bartholomew, baptized February 28, 1753.
William, baptized October 13, 1754.
Phœbe, " July 3, 1757.
Lucy, " February 10, 1760.
Lucinda, " November 14, 1762.

Caleb married 1st, Priscilla Savory, and four children were born to them: Priscilla, Zipora, Caleb, and Joshua, who was a veritable giant in his day, whom no single man would care to meet in any contest, yet his kindly nature, and amiable disposition, made him a choice companion among his associates. Caleb married 2d, Mrs. Lucy Kendall widow of Thomas Kendall (maiden name Lucy Baldwin), April 15, 1788, and these are the children from this union:

Lucy, who married Joseph Sawyer.
David, born March 12, 1791.
Samuel, born October, 1792.
Hannah, who married Phineas Moore.
Elmira, who married Jotham Howe.
Emily, who married James Hastings.
William, who married Susan Hartshorn.

Caleb, Jr , married Dolly Sawyer, June 24, 1803, and resided in Boylston several years on the place now occupied by J.

D. Flagg. There were born here Abigail, who married Moses Dodd; Caleb, born May, 1807, who was laid at rest Saturday, January 1, 1887; after the family moved to Holden there were born the following:

Dolly, who married —— Wheeler, of Concord.
James, now living in Alabama.
Lucy, who married —— Snell.
Edward, now in Cambridge.
Eliza, died in early womanhood.
Mary, died in Boston, 1884.

Joshua married Patty Sawyer, and resided in the house now owned by Mr. Lynch, where he died in 1813, leaving two children—Charles, who married Mary Andrews, and Oliver S. who married Minday Lamson, and lived on the Oliver Sawyer farm, where he died in July, 1881, leaving three sons, Nathaniel Everett, who married Mary Keyes, daughter of Deacon Keyes, of Sterling; and Oliver who married Hattie Moore, 1871, and now resides in Worcester.

David married Polly Wellington, April 2, 1812. He resided in Boylston most of his life. There was one peculiarity in his make-up, and that was that to him manual labor seemed more like pastime than a task. To him were born ten children:

Elizabeth, born March 19, 1814, married September 8, 1844, Rev. A Stowell.
Sanford M., born March 6, 1816.
Horace, born June 21, 1821, died April 27, 1827.
Mary, born July 18, 1823, died August 13, 1824.
Mary, born July 9, 1825, married Fisk B. Temple March 8, 1848.
Horace, born August 28, 1827.
John, born November 6, 1829.
Lyman P., born February 9, 1832.
Sophia Brooks, born April 27, 1834, died May 9, 1834.
Olive S., born May 4, 1836, died August 11, 1839.

Samuel married Abigail Hastings, always lived in Boylston, and died in 1884.

Persis, born April —, 1816, married James Andrews.

Horace married April 4, 1844, Sarah Maynard, of Boylston, as his first wife; married second, Fanny Buck, of Worcester, January 1, 1874, who died August 22, 1881.

His children:

Charles D., born November 10, 1854, married Kate Lindsey, of Grafton.

Sanford C., born October 6, 1856, married Jennie Bruce December 24, 1377.

Frederick H., born January 20, 1875.

John married August 10, 1852, Mary T. Knight, of Worcester. His children:

Olive C., born July 16, 1855.

John M., born March 5, 1866.

Lyman married June 19, 1859, Eliza L Moore, of Boylston, who died April 24, 1876. They lived in Boylston always, with the exception of two or three years in Worcester. To them were born:

Emma A., born December 4, 1859, died June 17, 1881.

Lizzie M., born November 30, 1862, married January 1, 1887, William N. Davenport, of Marlboro.

Willie, born August 9, 1867, died July 4, 1870.

Celia, born June 28, 1871.

Ella E., born April 14. 1875, died May 10, 1876.

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## THE LONGLEY FAMILY.

James Longley, the first of the name in Boylston, was a son of William and Mary (Parker) Longley, and was born in Shirley, November 4, 1753. His family was of English origin and of respectable, and even high standing in church and state; several were ministers of the established church, and one Thomas Long-

ley, supposed to be of the same family, rose to be Bishop of Durham, Cardinal and Lord Chancellor of England.

William (or as some claim Richard) Longley came to New England soon after the settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony; married Joanna Goffe, a sister of Thomas Goffe, Deputy Governor of the Colony; settled at Lynn where he was admitted as a freeman March 14, 1638. His son William Longley, settled in Groton, at or very soon after the first settlement of the place, and was one of the most extensive landed proprietors there; upon his death, his estates came into the possession of his son, William Longley, who resided there until his death in 1694, when he and his family became the victims of Indian depredations, and all were slain but three children, who were carried into captivity. Of these children one died of starvation; another was sold to the French in Canada, where she finally embraced the Catholic religion, and entered a convent at Montreal; the third, a son named John remained with the Indians, gradually adopting their manners and customs, until ransomed by Government when he very reluctantly returned to civilized life, and became an honored and useful citizen. Three of his sons, William, John and Jonas removed from Groton to what is now Shirley, about two years before the incorporation of that place; the distance from their former home was only about eight miles in a direct course, and yet, since they had to turn aside for impassable streams and slowly wend their way through the then wilderness, three days were necessary to complete the journey. The life of this William Longley seems to have been that of a quiet New England farmer, uneventful and even in its tenor, varied only by those hardships and privations which were the common lot of every New England pioneer. He lived to witness the struggle of the Colonies against British aggression, and the final consummation of their independence, in which struggle several of his descendants bore an honorable part.

James Longley the son, and principal subject of this sketch, on account of the large family of his father, was forced in early boyhood to seek a home elsewhere, and finally went to Northborough where after the custom of the time, he was apprenticed to Samuel Gamble, a carpenter, to remain in his service until he

should have arrived at the full age of twenty-one years. Under this master he received harsh and severe treatment. He was inefficiently and coarsely clad, and was kept at his work during the whole period of his indenture, without obtaining a single day's schooling. His treatment was such as would not be tolerated at the present time. He, however, patiently endured his ever- accumulating burdens until the term of his apprenticeship was completed. On obtaining his freedom he entered the employ of a hotel proprietor in Northborough; at this time he began to realize the importance of acquiring an education sufficient to enable him to transact ordinary business; he obtained a teacher and began to study; commencing with the alphabet he continued by patient effort until he had learned to read, write and solve the problems of common arithmetic. With this beginning he sought to qualify himself for the duties of life, and thus became a life-long student after knowledge.

During the Revolution he became imbued with love for the independence of his country, and entered the service of the Colonies, both in the land and sea forces raised for their protection. He was at first in the marine or privateering service, under Commodore Moody, and was in several successful cruises. He then joined the land forces and served in that dangerous affair on Long Island under General Sullivan, when the British troops under General Howe, undertook successfully to force the Americans from the Island, and later was at the battle of Saratoga which witnessed the capture of General Burgoyne. Soon after the close of the Revolution he married Molly Bartlett, of Northborough, and settled upon a large farm near Rocky Pond, in the easterly part of Boylston. His farm was large in extent, containing nearly three hundred acres, naturally rough and broken, and hard of cultivation. On it he erected large and commodious buildings, and by hard and patient labor brought it to a good state of cultivation. He was one of the first of the farmers in Boylston to plant orchards, and to introduce improved fall and winter fruit. On this farm he spent the remainder of his days, and here he reared a large family of children, nearly all of whom reached years of maturity. The quiet of his life as a New England farmer was broken from time to time by calls from his

fellow-citizens, to assume important and responsible positions. He was in Shays's Rebellion in 1787, and participated in the night march from Hadley to Petersham, through a blinding snow storm, as the following quaint receipt shows :

*Boylston, May* 10, 1787.

Then Received of Ezra Beaman all the wages that is due to us the subscribers for services while we ware in Capt. Jonah Howe's Company in Sirpressing the late Rebellion in the westward Countyis,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JAMES LONGLEY | JOHN HASTINGS Jr. | ROBERT HUDSON |
| JOHN ANDERSON | SAMUEL HARTHAN | AMARIAH SAWYER |
| JONAS GOODNUFF | SAMUEL WHITCOMB | WILLIAM SAWYER |
| JOTHAN GOODNUFF | STEPHEN BIGLO | JOSEPH BIGLOW Jr |
| LEVI MOORES | JASON GLAZIER | ALMA GOODNUFF |
| | | DAVID RICE |

He afterwards served for many years in the State Militia, and for some time held the office of captain. He was frequently elected to town office. He served upon the Board of Selectmen for eighteen years, and was chairman of the board thirteen years ; was one of the Assessors for seventeen years and chairman of the board twelve years ; town Treasurer in 1821 ; member of the School Committee in 1803 ; he also served as Moderator of town meetings for many years. He was elected as representative to the General Court for thirteen consecutive years, from 1798 to 1811, and was also the first Justice of the Peace commissioned within the present limits of the town, and was frequently called to preside over petty trials, solemnize marriage, and transact other legal business incident to that office. He was chosen by the town of Boylston to oppose the incorporation of the Second Precinct of Boylston, Holden and Sterling, and again in 1807 to oppose the incorporation of that Precinct as a separate town, and was one of the committee to divide the town property between the towns of Boylston and West Boylston; and was always deeply indentified with whatever tended to increase and develop the best interests of the community. He was of a strong and vigorous constitution, with an active and capacious mind combined with wonderful energy and great firmness, decisive in his judgment

which was unerring in whatever projects of a public nature he entered upon. He died January 15, 1837, aged 83 years. He had eleven children:

I. Otis, his eldest son, married Lydia Patch, and settled on the home place with his father. As a man he was much esteemed by his fellow townsmen. He was elected as one of the Selectmen and also served on the Board of Assessors, and was one of the Building Committee of the present Congregational Church. He died March 21, 1848, aged 63 years. He had six children, viz.:

(1.) Joseph Lyon, who married and settled in the West. He now resides in Dows, Wright County, Iowa; he has four children.

(2.) James Otis, married and settled in Worcester; by trade a machinist; he has two children.

(3.) Cynthia Jane, died April 23, 1859, aged 26 years.

(4.) John Benjamin, who never of a strong constitution, went West and died of Consumption Feb. 4, 1873, aged 37 years.

(5.) Granville Augustus, who, after his father's death, went to live with his uncle Jonas Longley, in Westborough, where he remained some six years graduating in the meantime from the Westborough High School, and being of a business turn of mind he removed to Worcester and entered the employ of Jonathan Luther, a clothier, (afterwards C. W. Freeland & Co.), and with Horace W. Bigelow formed the firm of Bigelow & Longley. Mr. Bigelow dying in 1886 Mr. Longley now continues the business as sole owner, in which they have been successful in building a large trade. Mr. Longley has served four years in the Common Council, during that time on the Committees on Finance, Education, and Enrollment; and at the annual city election in December last was chosen a member of the Board of Aldermen for the present year. He has had five children.

(6.) Henry G., who, after his father's death, removed to Worcester with his mother, and passed his minority in attending the public schools there, graduating from which he had just entered upon a business life when he enlisted in answer to his country's call and served in Company C, Fifty-first Regiment

Massachusetts Volunteers, and during the campaign in North Carolina, contracted the Malarial Fever, from which he died in the hospital at Newbern, N. C., Feb. 24, 1863, aged 21 years. His body was brought back to Worcester and interred with military honors.

II. Mary, daughter of James and Molly Longley, born Feb. 18, 1786, married Deacon Abijah Flagg, and settled on the farm now in possession of their son, Montraville Flagg. She died March 3, 1863, aged 76 years. Children:

(1.) William Frederick, who went West, married and settled in Illinois. He has ten children:

(2.) Montraville, who married Parney P. Houghton, and settled on the home place where he now resides; he has been for many years very active in church and parish affairs. He has had nine children.

(3.) Nahum, born July 15, 1811, married Hannah B. Nelson, and settled on the home place with his brother Montraville. He died very suddenly in 1861; he left two children.

(4.) Abijah, who died in infancy.

(5.) John Dexter, born Aug. 3, 1817, married Elizabeth Davenport, daughter of Nathaniel Davenport, Esq. He resides in Boylston. He has had six children, five of whom are now living.

(6.) Mary E., born Sept. 17, 1823, married Edwin Stewart, and resides in New York city. Has had five children, two of whom are now living.

III. Jonas, son of James and Molly Longley, born Nov. 11, 1787, married and settled in Westborough. He was a builder, contractor and lumber merchant, and held many important trusts to which he was elected by his fellow townsmen. He died Jan. 31, 1866, aged 78 years. He had four children.

(1.) James Alfred, born Jan. 6, 1814, was an architect and builder, and built the original buildings for the Massachusetts State Reform School at Westborough, and the present Congregational Church edifice at Northborough. He died at Southborough March 8, 1861, aged 47 years.

(2.) Susan B., born May 18, 1818, married Ansel Lakin, and died June 1, 1877.

(3.) Mary E., born Dec. 16, 1819, married B. B. Nourse.

(4.) Charles Otis, born July 20, 1824, resides in Westborough

IV. Rev. Jonathan Longley, son of James and Molly Longley, born June 21, 1789, entered Harvard College but was forced, on account of ill-health, to leave college before completing his course. He afterwards studied theology with Rev. Dr. Emmons in Franklin, and after a brief period spent as Principal of several Academies in this State and in New York, was ordained to the Christian ministry.

He was a man of strong mind, sound learning and solid worth, combined with great modesty. He had a wonderful memory which he had richly stored. His familiarity with Jewish and American history was great. The late Rev. George Allen in a notice at the time of his death says "his knowledge of the Scriptures was such that he needed no other concordance than his own memory." He died in Northbridge Jan. 26, 1850.

V. James, born June 22, 1791, and died June 10, 1793.

VI. Israel, born Nov. 21, 1792, and died June 6, 1793.

VII. James, born Sept. 3, 1794, married Sally Eustis, and settled in Boston, where he died Jan. 13, 1867, aged 72 years. After going to Boston Mr. Longley was for a short time engaged at the pottery works in East Cambridge, on the site of the present manufactory of the New England Glass Company. Afterwards he was in a grocery store on Leverett Street. He then went to the Commercial Coffee House, then located on the northeast corner of Milk and Batterymarch Streets, remaining there as clerk and proprietor until 1836, when he retired from active business. He served in many positions of trust and honor, was a director in several manufacturing corporations and was twice elected as a member of the Board of Aldemen of the city of Boston. He gave the sum of five hundred dollars to the town of Boylston for the purpose of improving and keeping in order the old cemetery. He died Jan 13, 1867. He left two children.

VIII. Israel Longley, born Nov. 8, 1795, and died of spotted fever Nov. 22, 1812, aged 17 years.

IX. Betsey Longley, born May 22, 1799, married Daniel Barnes June 13 1821, and settled on "Barnes Hill" in Berlin, on the place now in possession of her son, George H. Barnes. She had thirteen children, ten of whom lived to grow up, and nine are now living.

(1.) Mary Sophia, born June 22, 1822, married Oliver Carter, and settled in Berlin near her father's place. She has had four children.

(2.) Caroline E., born Aug. 16, 1823, married Levi Lincoln Flagg, and settled in Boylston, where she died July 2, 1871, aged 49 years. Mr. Flagg has been much employed in town affairs, and is one of the most influential and respected citizens of Boylston. He has served many years as Selectman, Assessor, Town Treasurer, &c., and represented the town in the General Court. They have had eight children, all of whom are now living.

(3.) Israel L., who married and settled in Boylston where he now resides. He has three children.

(4.) Angenette, born Dec. 10, 1826, married Levi E. Brigham, and resides in Clinton. They have had six children, five of whom are now living.

(5.) Rowena M., born Oct. 21, 1828, married Charles L. Whitcomb, who died several years since. They have had six children, five of whom are now living.

(6.) George Henry, born Dec. 18, 1833, married and settled on the homestead, in Berlin, where he now resides. He has had four children, three of whom are now living.

(7.) Hannah Jane, born Aug. 10, 1835, married Samuel H. Hastings, and now resides in Grafton. They have had four children.

(8.) Martha, born March 30, 1837, married and resides in Boylston.

(9.) Asenath Moore, born July 25, 1839, married John F. Bartlett, and now resides in Boylston. They have had eleven Children, ten of whom are now living.

(10.) David, born Oct. 19, 1842, married Miranda Parker, of Boylston, and resides in Shrewsbury.

Mrs. Barnes was possessed of a strong mind, and an active constitution, such as few of her sex can boast. At her death, which occurred Sept. 13, 1881, at the age of 82 years, she left a large posterity, there being more than two-score of grandchildren, and over a score of great-grandchildren.

X. Parker Longley, born Nov 22, 1800, was never possessed of firm health, and was obliged to go abroad in his youth, following the seas for some years, visiting Nova Scotia, where he had relatives, and other places. He married April 30, 1832, and settled in Boylston on the place originally belonging to John Hastings, and now in the possession of his son, Charles I. Longley. He was a man respected by his fellow townsmen, a kind and obliging neighbor. He had four children, three of whom are now living, viz.:

(1.) Edwin F., born Aug. 29, 1834, married and settled in Marlborough, where he was for a time engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes, building two large blocks in the center of the town for that purpose. He is now the owner of a large steam saw and box mill in which he annually manufactures large quantities of boot and shoe boxes, and is also engaged in other projects. He has had four children, two of whom are now living.

(2.) Charles I., born April 12, 1837, married Olive E. Stratton, of Boylston, and settled on the home place. He has always taken a lively interest in town affairs, and has held many offices of trust and honor, and was seven years one of the Assessors, two years Collector of Taxes, and on several committees of more or less importance. He was the Clerk and one of the Trustees of the Boylston Social Library for nearly twenty years, and was one of those who urged the establishment of the Boylston Public Library, which was in part made up of the Social Library, and served on the first Board of Trustees.

(3.) Ashael P., born Nov. 11, 1840; unmarried and now resides in Marlborough.

XI. Lois Longley, the youngest and last surviving daughter of James and Molly Longley, was born May 26, 1805. She married Joseph Dudley and settled in Northbridge. She was a woman of more than ordinary ability, with a retentive memory, a gift for which the family has been noted. She visited Boylston on Centennial Day for, as she then said, the last time. She was taken ill before her return, from which sickness she never rallied, and died at the house of her daughter, in Grafton, Oct. 6, 1886, at the age of 82 years. She had ten children, three of whom are now living, viz.:

(1.) Charles J., born Jan. 13, 1836, married and settled in Northbridge. Has two children.

(2.) Ellen Abbie, born Feb. 28, 1838, married Dea. Perley Goddard, and now resides in Grafton. Have had six children, five now living.

(3.) Francis S., born Dec. 17, 1848, married and settled on the home place in Northbridge. Has two children.

# TOWN OFFICERS.

1786. ✠ 1886.

## SELECTMEN.

Ezra Beaman, 1786, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 1803–4–5.

Jonas Temple, 1786, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 1802.

Timothy Whitney, 1786, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92.

Jonathan Fassett, 1786, 90, 1807–8–9–10.

John Hastings, 1786.

Joseph Bigelow, 1787.

Frederick Albert, 1787.

Jotham Bush, 1787, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1803, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23.

Thomas Keyes, 1788, 89.

James Holland, 1790, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95.

Ephraim Beaman, 1793, 94.

James Longley, 1793, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800–1–3–4–5–6–7–8–11–12–18–20.

Aaron Sawyer, 1793, 94, 95, 96, 97, 1800.

Simon Davis, 1795, 97, 98, 99, 1800–1–2.

John Crawford, 1796.

Jonathan Bond, 1797, 1800–1–2–4–5–6–8–9–10–14–15–19–20.

John Andrews, 1798, 1801–2–3–4–5–12–13.

Oliver Sawyer, 1798, 99, 1800–9–10.

Samuel Brigham, 1799.

Joshua Stiles, 1801-2—6-7-8.

Aaron White, 1803-4-5-6-7-8-9-11-12-13-15-16-17-18-19-21-22-23-24.

John Temple, 1806-7.

Amariah Sawyer, 1809.

Benjamin Flagg, 1810, 11, 12, 13.

Hezekiah Gibbs, 1810, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 29, 30.

Robert Andrews, 1813, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

Emory Temple, 1813, 14, 15, 16.

Thadeus Chenery, 1814.

Jason Abbott, 1816.

Nathaniel Lamson, 1817.

John Howe, 1817, 28.

Pitt Moore, 1819.

Daniel Hartshorn, 1820, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34, 35.

Benjamin Houghton, 1820, 21, 22, 23.

Gershom Flagg, 1821, 22.

Matthew Davenport, 1821, 22, 23, 24.

Nathaniel Davenport, 1826, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 48, 51, 52.

William H. Moore, 1824, 26, 27, 37, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47.

Eli Bond, 1824, 25.

Silas Hastings, 1825, 26, 27, 28.

Otis Longley, 1825.

Asaph Andrews, 1827, 28, 29, 30, 31.

Jotham Andrews, 1827, 28, 31, 32, 33.

Peter Babcock, 1829, 30.

Eli B. Lamson, 1831, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

Asa Andrews, 1832, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 42.

Baxter Wood, 1832, 33.

David F. Bond, 1832.

Jonathan Flagg, 1835, 36.

Benjamin Fassett, 1836.

Elmer Loring, 1836.

William Tombs, 1837, 38, 43, 44, 45.

David Kendall, 1838.
Jotham Howe, 1839, 46.
Thomas Bond, 1839, 40, 42, 46, 49, 56.
Dr. John Andrews, 1841, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 56, 60, 64.
Levi Flagg, 1841.
Salem Cobb, 1841.
Lambert Lamson 1841, 49, 53, 54.
John T. Cotton, 1842.
Jotham Hastings, 1842, 43, 44, 45, 50, 55.
David T. Moore, 1843, 45, 47, 48, 64.
Dinsmore Ball, 1844, 46.
Robert Andrews, Jr., 1845, 50, 56, 58, 59, 61, 62, 65.
John Barnes, 1846, 51, 52, 58, 59.
Capt. John Andrews, 1851, 52.
Oliver S. Kendall, 1853, 54, 55, 61.
Moses W. Wood, 1853, 55.
Henry H. Brigham, 1854, 57, 58, 63, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74.
Edward W. Tombs, 1857.
Azro E. Waterman, 1857, 59, 60, 70.
Stephen H. Hartshorn, 1860, 61, 62.
Sylvanus Reed, 1862.
Horace Kendall, 1863, 65, 66.
A. V. R. Prouty, 1863, 65, 66, 67, 68.
Tertulus Ray, 1864.
Elmer Shaw, 1866, 67, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.
James A. Weeks, 1868, 69.
Levi L. Flagg, 1869, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84.
Henry V. Wood, 1871, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85.
William A. Moore, 1879.
Edward F. Morrill, 1882, 83.
George R. Hastings, 1884, 85, 86.
Penniman M. Brigham, 1885, 86.
J. Nelson Ball, 1886.

## TOWN CLERKS.

Aaron Sawyer, 1786.

Jotham Bush, 1787, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99.

James Holland, 1792.

Aaron White, 1800–1–2–3–4–5–6–7–8–9–10–11–12–13–14–15–16–17–18–20–21–22–23–24.

Pitt Moore, 1819.

Eli Bond, 1825.

Nathaniel Davenport, 1826 to 1837 inclusive.

John T. Cotton, 1838 to 1849 inclusive.

Henry H. Brigham, 1850 to 1886 inclusive.

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## TOWN TREASURERS.

Joseph Bigelow, 1786, 87, 88, 89, 90.

Ezra Beaman, 1791, 92, 93, 94.

Jotham Bush, 1795, 1812, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

Timothy Whitney, 1796, 97, 98, 99, 1800–1–2.

Oliver Sawyer, 1803–4–5–6–7–8–9–10–11.

Aaron White, 1821.

Joseph Bond, 1822, 33.

Silas Hastings, 1823, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32.

Jotham Andrews, 1824.

Asaph Andrews, 1829.

Eli B. Lamsom, 1834, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 47.

Levi Goss, 1840, 41, 46, 48.

James Andrews, 1842, 43, 44.

James Hastings, 1845, 50, 51.

John B. Heywood, 1849.

Dr. John Andrews, 1852, 64.

George A. Cotting, 1853.

John T. Harlow, 1854, 1855.

Lyman P. Kendall, 1856.

Robert Hudson, 1857.

Joseph M. Wright, 1858.

Albert W. Andrews, 1859, 60, 61.
Stephen H. Hartshorn, 1862, 63.
Theodore Andrews, 1865.
A. V. R. Prouty, 1866, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75.
Levi L. Flagg, 1876, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84.
Walter A. Glazier, 1882.
George A. Flagg, 1885, 86.

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## ASSESSORS.

Ephraim Beaman, 1786.
Jonas Temple, 1786, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 94, 95, 1801.
Edmund Stiles, 1786.
Joseph Bigelow, 1787.
James Holland, 1787, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94.
Timothy Whitney, 1788.
Jotham Bush, 1789, 90, 91, 1802, 10.
James Longley, 1792, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 1801-2-3-4-11-12-13-16-17-18-21.
Aaron Sawyer, 1792, 97, 98, 99, 1803-4-5-6-8-9-10-13-15.
Samuel Brigham, 1793, 1800.
Simon Davis, 1795, 96, 97, 98, 99, 1800-1-2.
Jacob Hinds, 1796.
Jonathan Fassett, 1796, 1807-8-9-10-13-14-15.
Amariah Sawyer, 1800.
Thomas Keyes, 1803-4.
Silas Beaman, 1805-6-7.
Joshua Stiles, 1805.
John Bond, 1806.
Abel Osgood, 1807-8-11-14-16-19.
Isaac Stone, 1809.
Jonathan Bond, 1811, 12.
John Bannister, 1812, 14.
Oliver Sawyer, 1815, 16, 17, 18.
Thadeus Chenery, 1817.

William H. Moore, 1818, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 14.

Daniel Hartshorn, 1819, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37.

Eli Bond, 1819, 20, 23, 24.

Jotham Andrews, 1822, 30.

Matthew Davenport, 1824, 27, 28, 30.

Nathaniel Davenport, 1822, 23, 36, 37, 39, 41, 45, 46, 50, 51.

Robert Andrews, 1823, 25, 26.

Hezekiah Gibbs, 1825, 26, 34, 35.

Robert Hudson, 1827, 38, 49.

Peter Babcock, 1827, 35.

Elmer Loring, 1828.

Joseph Bond, 1829, 33, 34.

Asaph Andrews, 1831, 32, 36.

Otis Longley, 1831.

Baxter Wood, 1832, 33.

Lambert Lamson, 1838, 49, 52.

Joseph Flagg, 1839, 42, 44.

Eli B. Lamson, 1840, 47, 54.

Thomas Bond, 1840, 42, 52.

Dr. John Andrews, 1840, 41, 43.

David T. Moore, 1841, 51, 56, 57, 58, 60, 63.

Capt. John Andrews, 1843, 45, 46, 50, 56, 57, 60, 65.

Robert Andrews, Jr., 1844, 48, 54.

Willard Andrews, 1845, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 59.

Henry H. Brigham, 1847, 48, 53, 57.

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Everett Kendall, 1885.
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Horace Kendall, 1863.

Henry White, 1869.
Henry V. Woods, 1874.
Levi L. Flagg, 1884.

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## DELEGATES TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

Jonas Temple, 1788.
Jonathan Bond, 1820.
Rev. Daniel S. Whitney, 1853.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

To the many friends, residents or natives of the Town and others, who have by personal effort or contribution of money, assisted in carrying out the celebration and in publishing this volume, the committee would return sincere thanks.

ELMER SHAW,
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